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THE JOURNAL OF PARLIAMENTARY INFORMATION

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EDITORIAL NOTE

As per the Constitution of India, the President may address either House of Parliament or both Houses assembled together. Article 87(1) provides that at the commencement of the first Session after each General Election to the House of the People and at the commencement of the first Session of each year, the President shall address both Houses of Parliament assembled together and inform Parliament of the causes of its summons. The Address by the President is a statement of policy of the Government. It contains a review of the activities and achievements of the Government during the previous year and sets out the policies, which it wishes to pursue with regard to important national and international issues.

On 17 February 2003, the President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam addressed members of the two Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Central Hall of Parliament House at the commencement of the first Session of Parliament in 2003. We reproduce in this issue of the *Journal* the text of the Address by the President.

In our parliamentary system of governance, for making the functioning of the Legislature effective, the Presiding Officer has an important role to play. The Speaker, being the custodian of the House, has to ensure through his tact and skill that deliberations that take place on the floor of the House are well within the laid down rules and all sections of the House are given due chance to raise issues. For sharing of views and experiences on topical legislative practices, procedures and developments, it was felt by all concerned that holding of periodic Conferences of the Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies would work as an invaluable forum among the fraternity of Presiding Officers in the country.

Since its inception in 1921, the Conferences of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies have been taking place in different States in India. The Sixty-sixth Conference was held in Mumbai on 4-5 February 2003. Two main subjects, 'Changing dimensions of Zero Hour—How to make it more productive?' and 'Parliamentary Privileges and the Publication of Proceedings of the Legislature by the Media' were discussed during the Conference. The Speaker, Lok Sabha and Chairman of the Conference, Shri Manohar Joshi inaugurated the Conference on 4 February 2003. We include in this issue of the *Journal* the text of the inaugural address by Shri Manohar Joshi.

The co-existence of myriad religions, regions, languages and cultural ethos makes India a diverse country. However, what imparts uniqueness to this 'diversity' is its underlying unity. This spirit is truly reflected in the membership patterns of the popularly elected House of Parliament—the Lok Sabha. Though its members come from diverse socio-cultural and economic backgrounds, they are all united by a common cause, *i.e.* the welfare of the people.

An article by the Editor titled, Members of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha: A Socio-economic Study included in this issue of the *Journal,* attempts to an analysis of the socio-economic background of members of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha on the basis of their age, education, occupation, political affiliation, marital status and past legislative experience. An assessment has also been made of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha in comparison with the Twelfth Lok Sabha as also the earlier Houses wherever necessary, to draw certain conclusions about the general trends of representation. A statistical profile of new members has also been included in the study.

On 26 February 2003, the President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, unveiled the portrait of the valiant freedom fighter and eminent political thinker, Swatantryaveer Vinayak Damodar Savarkar in the Central Hall of Parliament House. The President, on 28 April 2003, also unveiled the statues of the valiant leader of Indian history, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, and the mystic saint, poet-philosopher and socio-religious reformer, Mahatma Basaveshwara, in the precincts of Parliament House. Booklets containing the profiles and select photographs of these leaders were brought out by the Research and Information Division of the Lok Sabha Secretariat on these occasions. Also, Exhibitions displaying the life and times of these leaders were organised by the Parliamentary Museum and Archives (PMA) of the Secretariat. We include in this issue of the *Journal* two Short Notes, *viz.* 'Unveiling of the Portrait of *Swatantryaveer* Vinayak Damodar Savarkar' and 'Unveiling of Statues of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Mahatma Basaveshwara in Parliament Complex'.

Besides, we carry in this issue our other regular features, *viz.* Parliamentary Events and Activities, Procedural Matters, Parliamentary and Constitutional Developments, Documents of Constitutional and Parliamentary Interest, Sessional Review, Recent Literature of Parliamentary Interest and Appendices.

It has been our constant endeavour to make the *Journal* more useful and informative. We would greatly welcome suggestions for its further improvement. We also welcome practice and problem oriented

non-partisan articles in the field of parliamentary procedures and institutions from members of Parliament and State Legislatures, scholars and others interested in the field of parliamentary political science.

—G.C. Malhotra
Editor

1

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT TO PARLIAMENT

The Constitution of India provides for an Address by the President to either House of Parliament or both Houses assembled together. The provision for an Address by the Head of State to Parliament goes back to the year 1921 when the Central Legislature was set up for the first time under the Government of India Act, 1919. The President may address both Houses of Parliament assembled together or either House of Parliament separately as per provisions of articles 86(1) and 87(1) of the Constitution. Under article 86(1), the President may address either House of Parliament or both Houses assembled together, and for that purpose require attendance of members. Article 87(1) provides that at the commencement of the first session after each General Election to the House of the People and at the commencement of the first session of each year, the President shall address both Houses of Parliament assembled together and inform Parliament of the causes of its summons..

The Address by the President is a statement of policy of the Government. It contains a review of the activities and achievements of the Government during the previous year and sets out the policies which it wishes to pursue with regard to important national and international issues. It also indicates the main items of legislative business which are proposed to be brought before Parliament during the sessions to be held that year.

On 17 February 2003, the President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam addressed members of the two Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Central Hall of Parliament House at the commencement of the First Session of Parliament in 2003.

We reproduce below the text of the Address.

—Editor

Honourable Members,

I extend a warm welcome to you at this first Session of Parliament in 2003. This is my first Address to Parliament at the start of the Budget Session.

Let me first welcome the newly elected members of the Rajya Sabha, as also of the Lok Sabha. I congratulate the people of Jammu and Kashmir who, in the October elections to the State Assembly, replied to the threat of the bullet with the power of the ballot. The entire nation is grateful to our Armed Forces, Paramilitary Forces, and Police Forces for their dedicated service under extremely trying conditions. We pay our homage to those who became martyrs in the call of their duty.

Today, I would like all of you to join me in paying tribute to Kalpana Chawla and her six fellow astronauts, who died in the tragic break-up of the Space Shuttle Columbia minutes before its touch-down on 1 February 2003. The remarkable journey of courage and determination that made this Indian woman, hailing from a small town in Haryana, a citizen of the Milky Way will remain a source of pride for all *Bharatvasis* and *Bharatvanshis*. It will also inspire young Indians, especially women, to dream big and to work hard to realize their dreams. I commend the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) gesture in naming the METSAT series of satellites after Kalpana Chawla.

This is the first session of Parliament after the National Development Council adopted the Tenth Five-Year Plan. The Plan aims at accomplishing faster economic growth with a stronger thrust on employment generation and equity. It has set the target of 8 per cent annual average (GDP) growth rate during the Plan period, with a companion target of 5 crore additional employment and self-employment opportunities. The Plan convincingly explains why these ambitious goals are achievable. It has distinguished itself from the previous Plans by underscoring that it is not merely a Resources Plan, but a Reforms Plan. It has deepened the domain of economic reforms by, especially, providing reforms-linked incentives to State Governments. It has also broadened the agenda of reforms by showing the categorical imperative to remove numerous non-financial barriers to faster development through reforms in civil service, judiciary, education, and above all, in governance at all levels—at the Centre, States, and *Panchayati Raj* institutions. I would especially like to draw the attention of the Union and State Governments to the detailed list, contained in the Plan document, of the legislative and administrative initiatives needed to translate the Tenth Plan's goals and targets into reality.

The Tenth Plan is important for yet another reason. No nation attains greatness without an energizing vision guiding it. The Prime Minister, in his Independence Day address last year, had called upon the people to strive towards the goal of transforming India into a Developed Nation by 2020. This vision captures our people's heightened self-confidence, rooted in India's impressive achievements in many fields. It also reflects the increased expectations of our people at the beginning of the new century, that India no longer be categorized as a developing, much less, a poor country. Nearly 260 million people, who are below the poverty line, want to join the mainstream of development. Our people are impatient to achieve 100 per cent literacy, health for all, shelter for all, prosperity through knowledge-driven productivity, and a better quality of life–all of these enriched with our value system. Hence, it is time India launched a new vision, which I would call "Vision 2020". I would like Parliament, which is celebrating its Golden Jubilee, to discuss this subject. I also call upon the Union and State Governments

to evolve an action plan for making the Tenth Plan a people's plan, and development a people's Movement. To achieve this, they should concentrate on two *mantras*: Effective Implementation with People's Participation; and Effective Communication for People's Participation.

A key element of "Vision 2020" would be "Providing Urban amenities in Rural Areas (PURA)". More than two-thirds of India's population lives in rural areas. We need to give a new thrust to their all-round development through a mega mission for their empowerment. This is best achieved through provision of four critical connectivities: Physical Connectivity by providing good roads, transport services and quality power; Electronic Connectivity by providing reliable communication networks; Knowledge Connectivity by establishing more professional institutions and vocational training centres, schools with high quality infrastructure, teachers who are devoted to teaching, production centres for rural artisans, primary health centres, recreation centres, etc; and Market Connectivity that will help realize the best value for the products and services of rural people, and constantly expand and enrich employment opportunities for them. The model envisaged is a holistic habitat that would improve the quality of life in rural areas and also help in decongestion of urban areas.

National security is a matter of the highest priority for my Government. After the 13 December 2001 attack on our Parliament by Pakistan-based terrorists, we were constrained to deploy our troops along the international border. This decision achieved its purpose by showing both our firmness and our self-restraint in dealing with our hostile neighbour. In October last year, the Government, after careful deliberation, decided to strategically redeploy the Armed Forces from their positions. This was done without compromising on their capacity to respond decisively to any emergency, and without lowering their vigil in Jammu and Kashmir.

A comprehensive Nuclear Doctrine has now been put in place. This places the ultimate control of our strategic assets in the hands of the civilian political executive. The country is truly proud of the scientists, engineers, and staff of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for the successful test firing of the Agni-1 missile. DRDO's other accomplishments include *Pinaka*, the indigenously developed Area Weapon System, and the supersonic missile BrahMos, jointly developed with Russia, which has been successfully flight tested.

Continued incidents of cross-border terrorism in 2002 again underscored that the chief threat to our internal security is external. The killings of innocent men, women and children; the choice of members of the families of security personnel as special targets; the attack on pilgrims—all this showed that there was a method in the madness of Pakistan-supported terrorist violence. However, the method did not

succeed. Our people maintained calm even in the face of provocative attacks on the *Akshardham* Temple in Gandhinagar and the *Raghunath* Temple in Jammu. However, we must continue to be vigilant against an adversary which is unwilling to give up its anti-India stand. The assurances given by Pakistan on the issue of cross-border terrorism have remained unfulfilled; the infrastructure of terrorist groups remains intact in Pakistan; the funding of terrorist groups continues.

The Centre is fully committed to working closely with the newly elected Government in Jammu and Kashmir in its efforts to bring peace, normalcy, and economic development of the State. The Prime Minister has announced projects and schemes worth over Rs. 6,000 crore covering various aspects of development and security with a thrust on generation of new employment opportunities for the youth and relief for migrants affected by militancy and cross-border shelling.

The Government's concerted efforts to rebuild peace in the North-East are bearing fruit. I send my special felicitations to the people of Nagaland, whose yearning for peace has imparted a strong momentum to the Centre's efforts in this direction. I also heartily congratulate the Bodo community for the successful conclusion of the peace talks. Development work in the North-Eastern region has gathered further momentum. A number of infrastructure projects have been set up through the Non-Lapsable Central Pool, through which more than Rs. 1,500 crore have so far been released. The people's long-standing demand for better facilities for air travel in the North-East has been addressed with the Introduction of four 50-seater aircraft.

During the past three decades, about Rs. 550 crore were given to the States to modernize their police forces. In contrast, the Police Modernization Scheme launched two years ago has made a fund of Rs. 1,000 crore a year for the next ten years. I urge those State Governments with poor utilization of this fund to take urgent corrective measures. It has been decided to launch the Multipurpose National Identity Card Project on a pilot basis in thirteen States from April.

The problem of illegal migration on from Bangladesh has assumed serious proportions and affected many States. There have been reports of Bangladesh territory being used by insurgent groups operating in the North-East. The Inter-services Intelligence (ISI) is also active in Bangladesh. This makes the issue of infiltration even more ominous. The Government is determined to take all necessary steps to check this problem.

The Assembly elections in Gujarat have strengthened democracy and ended a sad chapter in the State's history. We must resolve to ensure that communal violence is never repeated in any part of our country. The Government remains committed to secularism.

My Government has repeatedly made it clear that the Ayodhya, dispute can be resolved either through negotiations between the two communities or through a verdict of the judiciary, which has to be accepted by all concerned. While the judiciary should expedite its work and give an early verdict, it is also necessary for political parties, religious leaders and eminent social personalities to promote an atmosphere of mutual understanding, goodwill, and accommodation.

The Government has a coherent and well-integrated strategy for boosting economic growth. Despite the global slowdown, the past year has been a fairly good year as India continues to be rated amongst the fast growing economies. In the first nine months of this financial year, India's exports grew by over 20 per cent to reach US $ 38 billion (Rs. 181,300 crore). Despite a relative slowdown in the economy, the total revenues from excise and customs rose by over 15 per cent in the first nine months of the year. Inflation remained at a moderate level. Our forex reserves have crossed US $ 73 billion (Rs. 348,429 crore). Food stocks are comfortable, and prices of essential commodities are stable, despite a severe drought in fourteen States. The recent dip in the estimates of the GDP growth has been almost entirely due to the shortfall in agricultural production. This has once again highlighted the need to rescue our agriculture from its excessive dependence on the monsoon by increasing public investments in irrigation and in all other inputs that increase farm productivity.

A Task Force on Drought under the chairmanship of the Deputy Prime Minister has been constituted. So far, more than Rs. 1,000 crore have been released to the States under the National Calamity Contingency Fund, in addition to over Rs. 1,400 crore as the share of the Central Government to the Calamity Relief Fund of the States. Nearly 50 lakh tonnes of foodgrains worth nearly Rs. 5,000 crore have been allocated to the drought-affected States to generate relief employment through the Food for Work programme under the *Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana*.

The nation has been searching for a lasting solution to the recurring problem of droughts and floods, which have been taking a huge human and economic toll. Networking of our river systems to transfer water from the surplus basins to the areas of deficit has engaged people's attention for many decades. The Government has set up a Task Force to prepare a practical blueprint for this project, without compromising environmental safety and the interest of displaced people. This initiative will bring significant benefits in drinking water, irrigation, power generation, inland navigation and tourism. I must emphasize that this mega project does not negate the need for promoting small and micro programmes for water conservation at local levels. The two are mutually complementary.

The National Water Resources Council has adopted a new National Water Policy emphasizing integrated water resources development and management for optimal and sustainable utilization of available surface and ground water. The Centre has launched a Fast Track Programme for the completion of those major and medium irrigation schemes that can be completed in one year. Subsequent to the approval by the Narmada Control Authority, the dam height was raised, and this has mitigated the problem of drinking water and irrigation in arid areas of Saurashtra and North Gujarat.

The *Swajaldhara* programme, launched in December 2002, has scaled up the rural drinking water supply initiative to cover the entire country. It is a community-led, participatory programme to be implemented by the community and the Gram Panchayats. The community contributes 10 per cent upfront towards capital investment; and 90 per cent is matched by the Centre. I am happy to inform you that the programme's message "*Dus kadam aap chale, nabbe kadam hum chalenge*" has evoked excellent response from all parts of the country. A new initiative called "*Hariyali*" has been launched to promote integrated development of watershed programmes through Panchayati Raj institutions. Considering the acute and growing water scarcity in rural and urban India, it is high time we launched water conservation and efficient water use as a people's movement.

The flow of institutional credit for agriculture and allied activities has increased from about Rs. 45,000 crore to nearly Rs. 75,000 crore in three years. The *Kisan* Credit Card Scheme has made rapid progress since its inception three years ago. Over 2.7 crore cards were issued till September 2002. All the eligible farmers will be covered under this scheme by March 2004. The National Agricultural Insurance Scheme is picking up well.

The policy of procurement at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) while ensuring remunerative prices for wheat and rice, farmers in surplus States has resulted in huge stocks of rice and wheat with the public agencies. As a response to this, the Government has been encouraging exports of foodgrains. The wide-ranging recommendations on long-term food management made by the High Level Committee are being examined. There is an urgent need to review the current policies which have impeded crop diversification and led to unsustainable food subsidies, and to ensure crop neutral support to our farmers without excessive procurement.

Fertilizers are a critical component in our scheme of food security. The new pricing policy for urea to be implemented from April 2003 aims at greater transparency, efficiency and fiscal discipline. While the Government is committed to deregulate the marketing and distribution of fertilizers, it would ensure that major fertilizers are available in the

country both in adequate quantity and quality at affordable prices to farmers in all the States.

The sugar industry has lately faced serious difficulties, constraining the capacity of sugar factories to make timely payment to sugarcane farmers. Several steps have been initiated to protect the interests of sugarcane growers, while ensuring viability of sugar mills. Sustained efforts are being made to promote horticulture as a major area of diversification in agriculture. The cold storage scheme is working well and has created an additional capacity of 28 lakh tonnes. A new scheme of construction, renovation and expansion of rural godowns called *Grameen Bhandaran Yojana* has been launched. This scheme will help prevent distress sales by small and marginal farmers. A new National Policy on Cooperatives has been announced. A National Seeds Policy has been finalized. Under the scheme of Agriclinics and Agribusiness Centres launched last year, unemployed agriculture graduates provide extension services to the farmers on payment. Recognizing the need for value-addition in agricultural and horticultural produce, the Government has given high priority to the development of food processing industries. A Group of Ministers has been constituted to propose a single modern integrated food law and related regulations to replace the existing myriad laws, which have affected the growth of this sector.

Ensuring food security for the poor through a strengthened Public Distribution System (PDS) remains a major commitment of the Government. The *Antyodaya Anna Yojana* under which one crore poorest of the poor households are entitled to wheat at Rs. 2 a kilo and rice at Rs. 3 a kilo, is a proof of this commitment. The Centre hopes that State Governments would speedily remove the remaining obstacles in the smooth functioning of the PDS.

The *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana* is the most ambitious rural infrastructure project since Independence. During the last two years, it has sanctioned over Rs. 7,000 crore to the States, enabling construction of about 20,000 kilometres of roads. Efforts are being made to raise additional resources for this project and also devise innovative ways of speeding up its implementation. The Ministry of Rural Development organized an All-India *Panchayat Adhyakshas* Conference in April. The Sammelan unanimously passed a Resolution urging the Central Government to ensure speedy and effective devolution of financial and administrative powers to Panchayati Raj institutions through an amendment to the Constitution. I would like Honourable members to discuss this important proposal from the grassroots.

The National Highways Development Project is one of India's proudest success stories since Independence. As against a total of 556 kilometres of four and six-lane highways constructed during the first 50 years of Independence, today we are constructing 5 kilometres of world-

The President, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam arriving in procession to address members of Parliament on 17 February 2003

class highways every day! The Government is spending Rs. 20 crore a day on construction of nearly 15,000 kilometres of world-class highways during 1999-2007. The Golden Quadrilateral, which measures about 6,000 kilometres, is progressing ahead of schedule in many cases. Contracts worth over Rs. 18,000 crore have already been awarded, mostly to Indian contractors. The Project is already generating daily employment for 2.5 lakh construction workers and 10,000 supervisors. On completion of its first phase alone, it would have created 18 crore mandays of employment. Besides giving a big boost to India's cement and steel industries, it is expected that the Golden Quadrilateral alone would achieve a saving of Rs. 8,000 crore yearly on fuel and vehicle maintenance costs. The greatest benefit of this project, in my opinion, is that we have demonstrated to ourselves and to the world at large that India can now think of big projects and also implement them in record time.

The Government has taken various initiatives to put the Indian Railways, the country's premier transportation infrastructure, on a path of fast-track growth. A new non-budgetary investment initiative called the National Rail Vikas Yojana, has been launched. It envisages investment of Rs. 15,000 crore over the next five years. A major project, costing over Rs. 3,500 crore, for constructing the Udhampur to Baramullah railway line in Jammu and Kashmir is being implemented. We will ensure that the first train rolls into Kashmir Valley before 15 August 2007. Completion of all viable sanctioned railway projects within the next ten years out of a total shelf of projects of about Rs. 40,000 crore is also being planned. A non-lapsable Special Railway Safety Fund of Rs. 17,000 crore has been set up for renewal of over-aged assets and for safety- enhancement works.

Shipping and port development is turning around strongly. The total cargo handling capacity of major ports in 2002 was more than the traffic in the previous year. Indian ports no longer suffer from capacity constraints, resultant congestion and high turn-around time for ships. In its continued endeavour to attract private sector investment, the Government has offered three major projects for operation of container terminals.

The Government, intends to soon bring in a new Civil Aviation Policy which will liberalize this sector, usher in regulated competition, attract investment and modernize our airports to provide affordable, but world-class services to passengers.

The incredible rate of growth of the telecom services in India, the sheer size of the sector, the dramatic improvement in quality and the equally dramatic fall in tariffs have together scripted one of the major achievements of the country in recent years. This is an area where the fruits of reforms have benefited the common man directly. Until a few

years ago, people were standing in queues to obtain a telephone. Today, several telephone companies are standing in queue to get the people to choose their telephones. Between April 1999 and October 2002, 1.67 lakh villages have been covered by village public telephones, resulting in 85 per cent coverage. The number of mobile phones which was 14 lakhs in April 1999 has now crossed the one crore mark. What was only a few years ago a symbol of luxury has become an affordable tool of empowerment for the common man. The telecom revolution has also empowered postal services in the country. The Post Office network in India, in addition to modernizing its core postal services, is poised to offer many new value added services.

India's Information Technology (IT) industry, which has emerged as the pride of the nation, continued to do well in spite of a slowdown in the global economy. Software exports were US $ 7.8 billion during last year and are expected to reach US $ 10 billion this year. IT- enabled services are also beginning to create large-scale employment. I congratulate all our talented IT professionals and entrepreneurs for not only creating wealth for the nation but also bringing prestige to India in the international community.

The media and broadcasting sector has seen a host of new initiatives. To promote consumer choice, the Government has mandated a Conditional Access System (CAS) for pay channels. It will shortly come into force in four metros. Doordarshan and All India Radio will be supported to more effectively discharge their mandate of public service broadcasting. Community and campus radio stations will be allowed to be set up to promote educational and developmental communication. After considered debate, the policy has been changed in to permit 26 per cent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Indian Print media dealing in news and current affairs. However, suitable safeguards have been put in place. Effective steps will be taken to curb piracy to protect the interests of India's burgeoning entertainment sector.

The past few years have witnessed a silent revolution in housing construction in the country, thanks to a combination of Government initiatives and falling interest rates on housing loan. I am happy to inform you that whereas Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) sanctioned around Rs. 11,000 crore for housing construction from 1970 to 1998, in the last four years the sanctioned amount is more than that. It has sanctioned loans for construction of over 60 lakh new houses for poor and lower middle class people since the inception of this Government. Other public and Private housing finance companies have done equally well. The *Valmiki Ambedkar Aawas Yojana* that aims at improving the living conditions of urban slum dwellers has received an overwhelming response. A Challenge Fund for catalyzing city-level economic reform programmes will be operationalized soon. The Govern-

ment has given an 'in principle' approval for a major project to build married accommodation for defence personnel at an estimated cost of about Rs.17,000 crore and cleared the first phase at a cost of Rs.5,500 crore. The successful commissioning of the first phase of the Delhi Metro has created great pride and excitement among the people. I congratulate all those involved in its meticulous implementation. An Urban Transport Policy, and plans to construct metro rail in other cities, are on the anvil.

Power is the prime mover of the development process. The good news is that power sector reforms are slowly, but surely, showing positive results. Till now, 18 States have signed the Memorandum of Agreement under the Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme. Privatization of power distribution in Delhi has already led to improved supply. To rationalize the tariff fixation mechanism, a Central Electricity Regulatory Commission has been set up. State Electricity Regulatory Commissions have been set up in 21 States. A comprehensive Electricity Bill is before Parliament for approval. The atomic energy programme has also been progressing well. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency has been established. I am happy to announce that the plan to achieve 30 per cent energy savings in Government buildings has well and truly begun in *Rashtrapati Bhavan* and in the Prime Minister's Office.

Maximum self-reliance is the cornerstone of our energy security strategy. So far, three rounds of bidding have been invited under the New Exploration Licensing Policy, and 70 blocks have been awarded, involving an investment of about US $ 3 billion (Rs.14,500 crore). A fourth round is planned. This policy has been able to achieve its objective of expanding and accelerating exploration, especially in deepwater areas. It has started showing positive results with big discoveries made in several places. For the first time, eight blocks have been awarded for exploration and production of coal-bed methane. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Videsh Limited has started its first gas production from the Vietnam Offshore Gas Project. The rate of royalty on crude oil was enhanced recently with retrospective effect from April 1998. This would provide additional revenue to the oil producing States. The Administered Pricing Mechanism in the petroleum sector was dismantled from April 2002. The good news for housewives continues. Three crore and thirty lakh gas connections were released during the last four years, as against only three crore and thirty-seven lakh in the last forty years.

Coal is India's principal source for meeting its primary and secondary commercial energy requirements. 27 coal mining blocks have so far been allocated to 22 companies for captive mining for specific end-use. The Standing Committee of Parliament on Energy has submitted its

recommendations on the Coal Mines Nationalisation (Amendment) Bill, 2000 which seeks to throw open coal mining to the private sector, without the restrictions of captive end-use.

On 1 April, India's indirect tax regime will cross a major milestone. All our States will move to a uniform system of collecting taxes, namely the Value Added Tax (VAT). Apprehensions that the States may lose revenue in the initial period of introduction of VAT have been allayed by assuring them that the Government of India would compensate the revenue loss of the States, if any, upon introduction of VAT.

Well-run capital markets and well-regulated financial institutions help in mobilizing productive investments for faster economic growth. Last year, the Government had to take a series of corrective and promotive steps to restore investors' faith and institutions' health. These include the Securitization, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Act, 2002 that allows lenders access to the assets of defaulters. The Unit Trust of India was successfully restructured with due protection to the interests of small Investors. Securities and Exchange Board in India (SEBI), the stockmarket regulator, has been strengthened. Investigations into the recent stock market "scam" which were carried out by different agencies have underscored the limitation of a fractured approach. To investigate such frauds, it has been decided to set up a Serious Fraud Investigation Office. The report of the Naresh Chandra Committee on Corporate Audit and Governance is being examined. The problems faced by Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), the nation's premier financial institution, have necessitated its restructuring into a regular corporate entity. A Bill has been introduced to corporatize the IDBI.

The imperative of fiscal consolidation requires that public finances are managed better. This can take place only through greater collection of revenue and controlling unproductive expenditure. Increase in revenue will need restructuring of the tax system with a focus towards a stable, transparent and efficient tax administration. The Kelkar Committee's reports on direct and indirect taxes are a roadmap to the creation of such a tax regime. On expenditure, both the Centre and the States need to rationalize their revenue expenditure and to target their subsidies better. The Twelfth Finance Commission, which has recently been set up, will address these important issues.

The process of disinvestment has gained irreversible momentum as a part of the wider policy of economic reforms. State governments are also following this policy, which shows that there is a consensus in practice. The proceeds from disinvestment reduce the burden of public debt, thereby releasing public resources for the social and infrastructure sectors. During the current year, out of thirteen cases of disinvestment so far, eleven were of loss-making units. The procedures for disinvestment

have established benchmark norms for transparency, efficiency, administrative simplicity, and non-discretionary decision-making.

Social security to the organized and unorganized workforce will continue to be the Government's priority even in the era of liberalization. Under the Employees Provident Fund Scheme, which benefits 3.7 crore subscribers, a novel programme to reduce claims settlement time from 30 days to 2-3 days has been introduced. A nationwide unique Social Security Number for each worker is being launched. The national minimum wage has been revised to Rs. 50 a day. The Second National Commission on Labour has given a comprehensive report covering a wide range of labour issues. Its specific recommendations are being discussed with various stakeholders. Based on these deliberations, a comprehensive umbrella legislation for workers in the unorganized sector is being finalized for introduction in this session of Parliament.

The textile sector is grappling with the challenges of a globalized market and problems created by slow modernization. Nine Apparel Parks have been sanctioned for setting up garment units with state-of-the-art machinery. Several new schemes have been approved to improve facilities in major textile centres in the country. At the same time, the problems of the traditional handloom and handicraft sectors, which provide livelihood to vast numbers of our weavers and artisans, are also being comprehensively addressed through a special package of measures.

The Government has taken new initiatives aimed at strengthening the small-scale sector in the country to make it globally competitive. These include schemes for technology upgradation, providing collateral free loans, enlarging the scope a International Standards Organisation (ISO) Certification Scheme, de-reservation of items in the Small Scale Industries (SSI) sector in a phased manner, and promotion of small scale industries in the Knowledge Economy. The Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries is implementing a number of programmes for the creation of employment opportunities for the educated unemployed youth both within and outside the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) system.

The new Science and Technology Policy 2003 presents a blueprint for India's emergence as a major Knowledge Power. It outlines the approach to S & I governance, optimal utilization of existing physical and knowledge resources, development of innovative technologies, generation and management of intellectual property and creation of awareness amongst the people about the use and benefits of science and technology. An India Science Award of Rs. 25 lakh has been instituted to promote and recognize scientific excellence. The rapid strides that India has been making in biotechnology give us the confidence that we can develop it both for finding cost-effective

solutions to many difficult problems in healthcare, food security, pollution control, etc., and also for realizing new avenues of wealth and employment creation.

India's first meteorological satellite was successfully launched. The forthcoming launches of satellites in the INSAT-3 series will add further capacity to the Indian National Satellite (INSAT) system, which is already one of the largest domestic communication satellite systems in Asia. An exclusive satellite for education, EDUSAT, is also under development. The ISRO has taken up the task of tele-medicine connectivity to provide medical services to remote areas. The Indian Remote Sensing Satellites continue to provide valuable data for our resources survey and management. Ground water prospect maps for six States were released recently to help locate sites for drilling borewells.

The richness and diversity of India's bio-resources are a major gift of nature to us. The Biological Diversity Bill, 2002, passed in the Winter Session, marked a major milestone in India's commitment to conservation and sustainable utilization of our bio-resources. An ambitious afforestation programme with people's participation that establishes Joint Forest Management Committees in all the 1.73 lakh villages located on the fringes of the forest areas has been launched. The scope of the National River Conservation Plan has been considerably broadened to include works in 155 towns along polluted stretches of 29 rivers spread over 17 States. India successfully hosted the Eighth Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in New Delhi last year. The successful adoption of the Delhi Declaration helped to raise awareness of developing country concerns in climate change. India welcomes the adoption of the Plan of Action at the World Summit on Sustainable Development which was held in Johannesburg last year.

Honourable members, in my interaction with thousands of children across the country in recent months, I have found that they all have a dream to make something out of their lives, and something for India. It should be our collective responsibility to provide them an environment in which they can achieve their dreams. We have been implementing the largest intervention strategy in the world on child health and nutrition through the network of Integrated Child Development Services. In recognition of the significant services being provided by the *Anganwadi* workers, their honoraria have been almost doubled since April last year. A National Nutrition Mission has been launched in 51 demographically most backward districts of the country. A National Commission for Children a statutory body that will act as an Ombudsman for children, will also be constituted.

The nation's commitment to the universalization of elementary education is reflected in our move to make free and compulsory

education for all children in the age group of 6-14 years a Fundamental Right. *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*, our national programme to discharge this constitutional obligation, has been successfully launched with an outlay of nearly Rs. 5,500 crore. Adult Literacy Schemes have now been implemented in nearly 98 per cent of the districts in the country. The University Grants Commission (UGC), which has completed fifty years, is proposed to be restructured into the University Development Commission. Necessary amendments to the UGC Act will soon be brought in. I also congratulate the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) system for having completed fifty years of distinguished service to the nation. It has earned global acclaim for the quality of its graduates. Fourteen Regional Engineering Colleges have been upgraded as National Institutes of Technology. Special thrust has been provided to address the educational needs of minorities. Honourable members, I cannot overemphasize the critical importance of improving the quality and management of higher education at all levels. This will necessarily entail many difficult reforms, which I would like the two Houses to discuss.

Economic empowerment is a key aspect of women's empowerment. The concept of Women's Component Plan was introduced as a strategy to ensure that at least 30 per cent of the budgetary resources are spent for the benefit of women. I am happy to note that nearly 43 per cent of the budgetary allocation in social sector Ministries has actually been spent on women-specific or women-related schemes during the Ninth Plan period. This process shall be further strengthened during this year. The Self-Help Group movement among women has proved to be enormously successful.

The Government has announced the National Health Policy 2002, which aims to achieve an acceptable standard of good health amongst the general population. This will be done through increased access to the decentralized public health system by establishing new infrastructure in deficient areas and by upgrading the infrastructure in the existing institutions. A new National Policy on Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy has also been announced. Our efforts at containing malaria, kala-azar, dengue, blindness, and leprosy are progressing well. The coverage under the Revised National TB Control Programme has risen to 560 million people from 20 million in 1998. The Government has strengthened its partnership with States and Non-Governmental Organisation (NGOs) in implementing a comprehensive National Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) Control Programme throughout the country. In the era of liberalization, the Government is committed to ensuring the affordability of basic drugs. It will take comprehensive steps to further strengthen our pharmaceutical industry, which in recent years has acquired impressive export capabilities and tremendous global competitiveness in developing new drugs.

Improvement in the poor standards of sanitation, in urban as well as rural India, is essential for reducing the burden of disease, especially among the children and poor. The Government will soon launch, in active partnership with citizens' organizations, a major cleanliness drive, starting with the Railways, Government buildings, hospitals and public places.

The poor performance of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh in stabilizing their population is a matter of serious national concern. The Centre, in close cooperation with these four State Governments, has planned focused interventions to tackle this problem. A matter of equally grave concern is the fact that the female to male ratio in several developed parts of the country, such as Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Delhi is significantly lower than the All India average, which itself has been declining over the past few decades. Parliament has strengthened the punitive provisions of the law against pre-natal sex determination. However, the time has come for the Governments and civil society to launch a sustained campaign against the evil of female foeticide and infanticide. Another area of concern is the revival of polio in Uttar Pradesh (UP) and some other States, which has frustrated our resolve to make India polio-free by 2001. In view of the alarming spread of Hepatitis-B in 15 States, pilot projects have been launched for providing children with the necessary vaccine.

Promotion of social justice and mainstreaming of the weaker sections and minorities has been the constant endeavour of my Government. One of the key strategies for ensuring this is through economic justice and employment-oriented educational assistance. In the current year, over 18 lakh (SCs), 5 lakh (STs) and 6 lakh backward class students have been awarded scholarships. Two new merit-based scholarships after 10th standard have been introduced this year–one in the name of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and the other for the physically challenged students. The various concerned Finance and Development Corporations have a challenging role to play to live up to their mandate.

To give a further thrust to the welfare and development of Scheduled Tribes, a Scheduled Area and Scheduled Tribes Commission has been set up. The last such Commission was set up in 1960. Similarly, after fifty years, a summary revision of the Scheduled Tribes' list has been done under article 342 of the Constitution, involving inclusion or exclusion of 142 communities. To give focused attention to the needs of the Scheduled Tribes, it is proposed to set up a separate National Commission for STs by bifurcating the National Commission for SCs and STs.

The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has finalized a new draft National Youth Policy. A National Youth Commission has been set up. Indian sportspersons deserve commendation on their spectacular per-

formance in the 17th Commonwealth Games and the 14th Asian Games. The decision to host the first ever Afro-Asian Games later this year will further promote sports in the country. I call upon our promising sportspersons and sports organizations to start preparing in full swing for the Olympics next year. Honourable members, let us send our best wishes to the Indian cricket team playing in the World Cup tournament in South Africa.

The Government's commitment to electoral reforms is seen in the concrete legislative action undertaken last year. It showed that Parliament is responsive to people's concerns over criminalisation of politics. Further, the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2001 seeking to provide for open ballot system in respect of elections to Rajya Sabha for checking reported prevalence of money power in Rajya Sabha elections, and the Election and Other Related Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2002 providing electoral funding to political parties to check corruption and money power in elections, are pending before Parliament.

Judicial delays have been a cause for serious concern. To remedy this situation, nearly Rs. 500 crore have been allocated as special project and upgradation grant for judicial administration. This is the largest investment ever made for this purpose. Fast Track Courts in some States have improved the conviction rate. A concerted drive has been launched to fill about 2,000 vacant posts of Judges and Magistrates in District and Subordinate Courts.

The year gone by has seen a bouquet of initiatives to revive the glory of Indian culture. The much-needed synergy between Culture and Tourism has been brought to the fore by promoting a new concept of developing at least one Culture-cum-Tourist hub in each State. A number of monuments have been taken up for integrated conservation and development. All-round infrastructure development and public amenities around these complexes have been taken up in a big way. Kurukshetra, Red Fort, Ajanta, Ellora, Hampi, Humayun's Tomb, etc. are some of the examples. It is proposed to revive cultural tourism along the routes of the great Yatras of *Adi Shankaracharya, Swami Vivekananda* and *Mahatma Gandhi.* Work is being undertaken to develop complexes along the route of the legendary river *Saraswati.* Many schemes have been taken up during the commemoration of 2600 years of the Janm Kalyanak of Bhagwan Mahavir. The Mahabharata festival at Kurukshetra will now be held every year. Much of the ancient wisdom of India is stored in a large number of manuscripts available with institutions and individuals all across the country. A National Mission for Manuscripts has been recently launched with the aim of surveying, cataloguing, preserving and collecting these valuable manuscripts in a National Manuscripts Library.

My Government will continue its vigorous efforts to use India's

foreign policy to promote and safeguard our critical national interests. Drawing on the strength of our civilizational and historical ties with countries across the globe, we will forge ahead towards broad-basing our political links, expanding our network of economic cooperation, strengthening strategic inter-linkages and collaborating on cutting-adge technologies.

India has always striven for peaceful, friendly and cooperative relations with all its neighbours. Unfortunately, Pakistan has consistently responded to our efforts with hatred and violence, sponsoring and actively supporting a sustained campaign of cross-border terrorism. Recent revelations have shown how every civilized diplomatic norm is being flouted by the use of its diplomatic mission in Delhi to arrange financing for terrorist groups in the country. We have had to take measures against the concerned diplomats, but have also reiterated that we would be willing to retain the level of our diplomatic representations by accepting replacements of the expelled officials. Our position remains unchanged that we are willing to resume bilateral dialogue with Pakistan, as soon as cross-border terrorism ends.

India's commitment to South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) as an engine for economic integration and equitable development in the region, remains undiluted. We have constantly pushed for progress on substantive aspects of the economic agenda outlined in the Kathmandu Declaration. We have repeatedly declared our willingness to attend the next SAARC Summit if meaningful progress is achieved on these issues.

India will continue to intensify its multi-faceted cooperation with relations with Bangladesh and Myanmar. We are also implementing developmental projects with Indian assistance in Myanmar. With Bangladesh, we are also engaged in a dialogue on some important political and security issues that have arisen in our interactions. The visit of the Prime Minister to Maldives in September last year further enhanced our cordial relationship with that country.

Nepal is passing through a difficult phase of political changes and Maoist insurgency. We believe that multiparty democracy and constitutional monarchy are two essential pillars for stability, security and development in Nepal. We hope that the current problems will be resolved within this framework, in a peaceful and consensual atmosphere. We have maintained an intensive political dialogue and fruitful economic cooperation with Sri Lanka. We continue to support efforts towards a solution of political problems in that country in a manner that preserves its territorial integrity and meets the aspirations of all segments of its population.

The people of India and Afghanistan have a legacy of close and

historic ties of friendship and cooperation. We welcome the expansion and consolidation of the authority of the Transitional Administration and fully support the Government of Afghanistan. We look forward to receiving the President of Afghanistan on a State visit to India in the very near future. India will continue to extend extensive humanitarian, financial and project assistance for Afghanistan's reconstruction.

The Close ties of friendship between India and Iran were put on a stronger footing when we hosted the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran as the Chief Guest at our Republic Day Parade this year. We want to expand, consolidate and diversify our ties with Iran, which have a strategic dimension in the areas of energy and transit.

India's interactions with China have grown and diversified. Trade and economic cooperation are expanding rapidly. Efforts to build trust and understanding in other areas continue. The Prime Minister has been invited to visit China this year and has accepted the invitation. We continue to strengthen our bilateral relationship with Japan, pursuing the shared objective of building a global partnership. India's cooperation with the Republic of Korea continues to expand. We continue to monitor developments in the Korean Peninsula. Reports that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea resumed its nuclear weapons programme with the help of technology from Pakistan arouse serious concern, both about the security implications and about the double standards with which much of the world has handled the question of treaty obligation as well as proliferation issues.

India's traditionally warm relations with South East Asia have been reflected in our recent bilateral interactions, including the Prime Minister's visits to Cambodia, Laos and Thailand. Our engagement with the region reached a qualitatively higher platform when our interface with Association of South East Asian Nation (ASEAN) was raised to the Summit level in November 2002. We are making good progress on the economic initiatives outlined at the India-ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh.

India's deep-rooted relations with Central Asia have been enhanced by an identity of views on recent political and economic developments. India and the countries of Central Asia also have a shared determination to tackle the negative focus of terrorism, extremism and drug trafficking which stalk our common neighbourhood.

The Gulf region is of great importance to India. The region is a major source of India's energy needs and a major economic partner in trade and investment. Over 3.5 million Indians are engaged in the economic development of the Gulf countries. These multi-dimensional ties have been further strengthened and diversified through sustained interaction.

We share the concern of the entire world on the unhappy situation relating to Iraq. We have deep interest in peace, stability and security in that region. We hope that the wisdom of the international community, expressed through the UN Security Council, will result in a peaceful resolution of this matter in a manner which would benefit humanity.

My Government attaches great importance to the strategic partnership between. India and the Russian Federation, which is enriched by regular political consultations, multi-faceted economic cooperation and intensive defence collaboration. During President Vladimir Putin's visit to India in December last year, we also signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Fighting against Terrorism.

India's engagement with countries in Europe continues to be broad-based and intensive. Regular exchanges of views on regional and international developments have promoted a better appreciation in these countries of our legitimate concerns and helped to re-vitalize our bilateral relationships. The India European Union (EU) Summit in Copenhagen strengthened our institutional dialogue with the European Union, which we will take forward at the next Summit meeting in India later this year.

India and the USA continue to forge a new relationship. There is a mutual conviction between the two countries that their bilateral relationship must undergo a qualitative transformation in order to respond to the increasingly complex challenges to the international security and strategic architecture. The two countries are also engaged in building closer bilateral consultations on multilateral social and economic issues of mutual concern.

Africa continues to occupy a special place in our diplomatic interactions. This continent, which constitutes the largest group of countries in the United Nations, is also increasingly becoming an important economic partner for India.

Our bilateral relations with Latin America and the Caribbean have grown considerably. The "Focus LAC" programme pursued since 1997 has resulted in increasing attention being paid to the region by the Indian public and private sector.

The Government's consistent efforts to nurture a close relationship with the overseas Indian community were highlighted by the celebrations of the first "Pravasi Bharatiya Conference" in January. On this occasion, we honoured ten eminent persons of Indian origin whose achievements in their countries of adoption and domicile have done our country proud. The Government has also decided to grant dual citizenship for persons of Indian origin living in certain countries. The necessary legislation for this will be introduced in this Session.

Honourable members, it is indeed heartening that the Winter Session of Parliament did exceptionally well in conducting its legislative business. During that Session, both Houses passed as many as 42 Bills and I have accorded assent to all of them. The Government was able to bring forward several legislations last year, out of which 93 Bills have been passed, which also include important constitutional amendments. This is the highest number of enactment of legislations in a single year during the last 25 years and the third highest since 1947. Apart from the fiscal agenda relating to the Railway and General Budgets, there is a heavy legislative business awaiting completion in this Session. I do hope that the Budget Session—and all the subsequent Sessions of Parliament—will be as productive as the last one.

I wish you success in your endeavours.

ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA, SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI AT THE SIXTY-SIXTH CONFERENCE OF PRESIDING OFFICERS OF LEGISLATIVE BODIES IN INDIA

The 66th Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India was held at Mumbai from 4 to 5 February 2003. The Speaker, Lok Sabha and Chairman of the Conference, Shri Manohar Joshi delivered the Inaugural Address on 4 February 2003.

We reproduce below the text of the Address.

—Editor

Honourable Chairman, Maharashtra Legislative Council, Prof. Narayan Sadashiv Pharande; Honourable Speaker, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Shri Arunlal Govardhandas Gujarathi; Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Rajya Sabha, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla; Honourable Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.M. Sayeed, Honourable fellow Presiding Officers from State Legislatures; Honourable Ministers; Honourable Legislators; learned Secretaries-General of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha; Secretaries of State Legislatures; Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a matter of great pleasure for me to welcome you all to my home State, Maharashtra, and particularly to this city of Mumbai. I am indeed happy that the Maharashtra *Vidhan Sabha* and the *Vidhan Parishad* have organized this very important session in our State and I cordially welcome you all to this commercial capital of India, the city of Mumbai.

As has earlier been said by Shri Arun Gujarathiji, I have spent my ten years in the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai and thereafter I have spent an eventful twenty five years in this same building where you are sitting today. This is the building where I had spent fifteen years as a member of the Legislative Council and then for two terms, I was a member of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly. When I enter this building, I start remembering a number of events, I would not like to mention all the events because I was a Leader of the Opposition as well. But I definitely remember that this was the place on my left hand side, where Shri Pramod Shende is sitting, I used to once sit there as the Leader of the Opposition and on the right side, where now the Honourable Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir is sitting, I used to once sit

there as the Chief Minister of the State. The only place where I did not sit was in the Speaker's Chair and I am happy that today you have given me an opportunity to sit in this Chair also. I must say that now I understand the plight of the Speaker. This is for the first time that I am seeing that the Legislative Assembly is so quiet!

I must thank all those who have come to Mumbai and are sitting here. I am sure that you would be looked after very well by both the Honourable Speaker and Honourable Chairman of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly and Maharashtra Legislative Council, respectively.

I am more happy particularly because we have recently celebrated the 50th year of the Lok Sabha. The Assembly also has completed its Fifty years. It is a great occasion for all of us. While I was entering the gate of the *Vidhan Sabha,* some media people asked me, is it worth spending money on Conferences?' Before I go further I must tell you about the purposefulness of these Conferences. These Conferences bring all of us together, We exchange our views. These days particularly it has become more important to hold Conferences because there is a threat to our democracy. We must all stand united. We must have a common purpose. We must have a common design.

Friends, the first and foremost work before us is to save democracy from the atrocities of terrorists and this can be done only by discussions. Democracy is nothing else than discussion and understanding of each other. Therefore, it becomes always necessary that we must come together and we must stand together and we must fight the enemies of democracy. That is exactly what has brought all of us together.

Friends, I must mention that Maharashtra is known for its remarkable history, cultural heritage and entrepreneurship. Being very brave people, the Maharashtrians have always fought against any attempt at subjugation. The portrait of *Chhatrapati* Shivaji Maharaj can be seen by you all from here. As a matter of fact, all these portraits are very important. Opposite me, we have the portrait of *Chhatrapati* Shivaji Maharaj on one side and then we have the portrait of *Lokmanya* Tilak on the other side. Here, we also have the portraits of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, Jyotiba Phule, Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. I think, everybody who is in politics or is a social worker must worship these leaders. Most of these leaders have come from this State of Maharashtra, which we are all proud of.

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj taught us, amongst many other things, to valiantly fight against any form of injustice. That is a lesson Maharashtrians have well learnt, as has been evidenced by the historic role played by them and their leaders during our freedom struggle.

Maharashtrians have also contributed greatly to the literary heritage

of our country. Maharashtra is also known for its venerable sages and pioneering social reformers who have enriched our life in many ways. The contribution of Maharashtrians in strengthening the nation's cultural base has also been outstanding. Besides *Chhatrapati* Shivaji Maharaj, *Lokmanya* Tilak, Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, Sahu Maharaj, Sant Gadge Baba, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and Prabodhankar Thackeray are some of the very prominent luminaries of Maharashtra who are known for their contributions to the country. These names are only illustrative and not exhaustive.

I had an occasion to interact with all of you last month during the International Parliamentary Conference held in the Central Hall of Parliament from 22 to 24 January 2003. The Conference was held to mark the Golden Jubilee of the Parliament of India with delegates from as many as 77 countries taking part in it. The objective of the Conference was to bring together parliamentarians from across the world to share their experiences, views and ideas in meeting the challenges being faced by democracies and to rededicate themselves to the cause of good governance and welfare of the people. The Conference was inaugurated by the President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam on 22 January at a solemn function in the Central Hall of the Parliament House. It was also addressed by the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. I had the honour of welcoming the distinguished gathering.

At the inaugural function, several publications brought out by the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariats were released. The Honourable President, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam released the publication, Ind*ian Parliamentary Companion: Who's Who of Members of Lok Sabha (First to Thirteenth Lok Sabha)* brought out by the Lok Sabha Secretariat carrying brief biographical sketches of members of Lok Sabha right from 1952 till 2002. Friends, it is a unique document which gives the names and information of all the members who have worked right from the day of Independence of the country. The other publications which were released were: *Fifty Years of Lok Sabha; Fifty Years of Rajya Sabha (1952-2002), The Changing Profile of Lok Sabha: A Social-Economic study of Members (1952-2002)*; and *Parliament of India: A Pictorial Essay.* These are important publications; I am sure, those of you who have attended it must have received them.

During the Conference, I inaugurated an Exhibition on *Golden Jubilee of Parliament of India.* Organized by the Parliamentary Museum and Archives of the Lok Sabha Secretariat in collaboration with the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) the Exhibition traced the history of democratic traditions in ancient India and the growth of modern parliamentary institutions. The Exhibition laid special

The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Manohar Joshi addressing the Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India, Mumbai

emphasis on the functioning of Indian polity as a democratic Republic during the last fifty years with the help of photographs, diagrams, charts, press-headlines, quotations, write-ups, etc. I may mention here that we are celebrating not only the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Parliament of India but also of many State Legislatures.

Now, turning to this prestigious Conference, let me first of all welcome new friends to this Conference who have joined us and are with us today. They are Shri Bhola Prasad Singh, Deputy Speaker, Bihar Vihan Sabha; Prof. Mangalbhai M. Patel, Speaker, Gujarat Legislative Assembly; Shri Tara Chand, Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly; Shri M. Akbar Lone, Deputy Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly; Shri Bagun Sumbrui. Deputy Speaker, Jharkhand Vidhan Sabha; Shri L. Lala Singh, Deputy Speaker Manipur Legislative Assembly; and Prof. Darbari Lal, Deputy Speaker. Punjab Vidhan Sabha. Let me welcome all of you to this important gathering.

Since we met in June last year, we have elected a new President of the Republic and bid farewell to the outgoing Head of the State. We also elected a new Vice-President. On 18 July 2002. Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam was declared elected as the President of India. On 25 July, he was sworn in as the President by the Chief Justice of India, Justice B.N. Kirpal at a solemn function held in the Central Hall of Parliament House. Soon after the swearing in ceremony, the new President addressed the distinguished gathering present in the Central Hall. To bid farewell to the outgoing President, Shri K.R. Narayanan, a function was held in the Central Hall on 22 July 2002. During the function, I presented, on behalf of all of the members of Parliament, a Farewell Address placing on record their respectful and affectionate tributes to Shri Narayanan. Recalling the long, distinguished and eventful public career of Shri Narayanan, the then President, I had said:

> "Your election as the President was a defining moment in our democracy because it demonstrated the doctrine central to democracy that all men are equal and have equal opportunity to occupy the highest office of the land ...You have occupied this office and held it with such dignity and distinction that Rashtrapati Bhawan has grown in stature as the abode of a thinking Head of the State and a scholarly President of the Republic. Your words of wisdom and sane counsel would ever ring in the portals of Parliament and inform our perception of the role of an ideal parliamentarian in the service of people"

The election to the office of the Vice-President of India took place on 12 August 2002. The newly-elected Vice-President, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat was sworn in and administered the oath of office by the President. Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam on 19 August 2002.

You would recall that in my Address immediately after assuming the

office of the Speaker, I had sought co-operation of all sections of the House to ensure the smooth and orderly conduct of the business of the House. I particularly stressed the special role of Leaders, Chief Whips and Whips of parties in this task. I had also proposed holding of periodic meetings with Leaders of various parties and groups to facilitate consensus in conducting the business of the House in the best possible manner. Keeping in line with this thinking, on the eve of the Winter Session, I invited Leaders of all parties for an important informal meeting which was attended by the Honourable Prime Minister, Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, besides other leaders. During this meeting, I sought their cooperation in the smooth conduct of the proceedings of the House. I appealed that no member should be allowed to enter the well of the House or create disturbances with a view to adjourning the House. With the cooperation extended by each and every member of the House, I am glad these efforts bore fruit. I am confident that this gesture of self-discipline and collective wisdom will become the guiding force in the effective functioning of the House in the days to come.

I remember it was reported in the media also that the business done in the last Winter Session had created a new record of business in the last 30 years. That means, for the first time in 30 years, excellent business was done in the Parliament which was appreciated by all.

I would now like to recapitulate significant developments of parliamentary interest that have taken place since our last Conference held in June 2002 at Bangalore.

As you know, article 115 (1)(b) of the Constitution enjoins upon the Executive to lay the annual financial statement before the Legislature showing the actual expenditure incurred in excess of authorization. Article 205(b) casts similar responsibility on the States. The Ninth Conference of Chairmen of Public Accounts Committees (PACs) held in January, 2001 at New Delhi discussed the issue of delay in regularization of excess expenditure. It was felt at the Conference that the delay in the regularization of excess expenditure be brought to the notice of the Presiding Officers. I, therefore, thought it appropriate to bring this to the notice of all of you, as financial discipline is the crux of accountability.

While at the Union level, our PAC is examining such excess expenditure as their first priority, it is a matter of regret that a mandatory constitutional provision concerning financial procedure to be followed and having a direct bearing on the Executive's accountability is being disregarded by some of the States who have not examined their excess expenditure for more than a decade. Needless to say, this is a matter of serious anxiety and concern as any expenditure incurred without the authority of the Legislature is irregular and unauthorized. I would,

therefore, urge all the Presiding Officers here to impress upon their respective PACs to examine expeditiously all instances of excess expenditure and to report back to the Legislature.

To turn to privilege issues, on 17 May 2002 Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, MP gave a notice of question of privilege against the Minister of State for Planning and the then Ministers of Finance and Rural Development for allegedly misleading the House on the issue of financial assistance to Bihar. I am quoting this because I thought, it is necessary that I bring it to the notice of the Speakers of different States. The member, in his notice of question of privilege, alleged that the Ministers deliberately misled the House on the issue of financial package to Bihar while replying to the debate on the Finance Bill, 2002, during discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Development on 24 April 2001 and while replying to his Calling Attention Notice on 23 April 2002. After obtaining the comments of the Ministers in the matter and considering the same, during the Winter Session, on 11 December 2001, I gave the following ruling. I think this ruling may guide the other Speakers of the country:-

> I had called for the comments of the concerned Ministers on the notice of Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh. I have since received the comments of the Ministers.
>
> It is well established that if any statement is made on the floor of the House by a member or Minister which another member believes to be untrue, incomplete or incorrect, it does not constitute a breach of privilege. In order to constitute a breach of privilege or contempt of the House, it has to be proved that the statement was not only wrong or misleading but it was made deliberately to mislead the House. A breach of privilege can arise only when the member or the Minister makes a false statement or an incorrect statement willfully, deliberately and knowingly.
>
> On a perusal of the comments of the Ministers in the matter. I am satisfied that there has been no misleading of the House by them as alleged by the member.

I accordingly disallowed the notice of question of privilege.

Friends, as you might be aware, on 16 May 2000, my predecessor Shri G.M.C. Balayogi had constituted a 15-member Committee on Ethics under the Chairmanship of Shri Chandra Shekhar, former Prime Minister of India. This is a very important Committee in the history of our Parliament. The terms of reference of the Committee are: (a) to oversee the moral and ethical conduct of the members; and (b) to examine the cases referred to it with reference to ethical and other misconduct of the members.

In other respects, the rules applicable to the Committee of Privileges apply to the Committee with such adaptations as the Speaker may consider necessary, until the Committee on Ethics evolves its complete procedure for being incorporated in the Rules of Procedure.

The Committee, in their First Report presented to the Lok Sabha on 22 November 2001 and adopted by the House on 16 May 2002, apart from recommending adherence to various ethical norms which have been stipulated in Rules, Directions and laid down in conventions, also recommended procedure for making ethics related complaints and financial disclosures and declaration of interests by members.

The Second Report of the Ethics Committee on Ethics related matters has also since been presented to the House on 20 November 2002.

The Committee in their Report *inter alia* recommended that the Rules regarding constitution of a Committee on Ethics, its functions and procedure to be followed by the Committee, be incorporated in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. The Committee also recommended that: (a) appropriate rules may be incorporated in the Rules of Procedure laying down the procedure for making ethics related complaints; and (b) a Code of Conduct for members as appended to the Resolution which was adopted at the Conference of Presiding Officers, Chief Ministers, etc. on 25 November 2002 may be suitably incorporated in the Rules.

As you are aware, during the 62nd Conference of the Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India, the Presiding Officers had held in-depth deliberations on the need to review the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution. In view of the near unanimity among the Presiding Officers—this is very very important—that the Anti-Defection Law needs to be reviewed, my predecessor, late Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, on 13 October 1998, constituted a Committee of Presiding Officers to go into the matter under the Chairmanship of the Speaker, West Bengal Legislative Assembly, Shri Hashim Abdul Halim, who is present in the Conference today. At their sixth sitting held on 27 December 2002 at Dispur, the Committee approved the Report on Review of the Anti-Defection Law. I compliment on behalf of all of you, Shri Halim, on producing an excellent report dealing with various facets of the Anti-Defection Law. This Report is being presented to this august body tomorrow. I am sure that defections have created a very great problem to our democracy and therefore this Report may be seriously considered by all the delegates present from different Assemblies.

Friends, we have chosen two topical subjects of interest for deliberation at this Conference. The first subject is *Changing Dimensions of Zero Hour—How to make it more productive?*

In Lok Sabha and in some of the States there is, by convention a method of Zero Hour whereas in some of the Assemblies, including the Assembly of Maharshtra, there is no Zero Hour. So, it is necessary that once for all we discuss and come to a conclusion about the Zero Hour. Therefore, this subject has been specially taken up for deliberation today.

Zero Hour is a uniquely Indian parliamentary practice. This gives members a chance to raise issues they consider important. This device has developed over a period of time and is largely based on conventions and practices. In the Rules of Procedure there is nothing called Zero Hour in the Parliament, but the Zero Hour exists. Its origin can perhaps be traced to the early sixties when many issues of public importance and urgency began to be raised by the members immediately after the Question Hour.

Veteran parliamentarians utilized the period with remarkable skill to draw the attention of the House and thereby that of the nation to some truly important issues, Slowly, the practice started getting a parliamentary status, and Zero Hour proceedings started stealing the limelight in the media, thereby encouraging more and more members to take resort to this quick and handy device.

While Zero Hour was gaining popularity and acceptability amongst the members, the fact remains that on many occasions it encroached upon the precious time of the House, sometimes leading to acrimonious and unruly scenes and disorderly conduct on the part of some members. This trend started causing concern. It has been discussed at several Presiding Officers Conferences and also in the Conferences of Secretaries. Though Zero Hour is sometimes described by some as waste of public money, at the same time it was realised that it had become popular among members cutting across party lines. At one end of the spectrum the view was that it was an impediment in transacting normal business of the House, at another, it was regarded as something original by way of contribution to Indian parliamentary practice. To provide an opportunity to the members to raise issues without causing dislocation of settled business as listed in the Agenda paper of the day, the Special Mention Procedure was evolved in Rajya Sabha for the first time. Matters are likewise raised in Lok Sabha under Rule 377. In the case of matters raised during the Zero Hour, Ministers are under no obligation to respond either on the floor of the House or later to the members concerned as is the case with matters raised under Rule 377 in Lok Sabha or the Special Mention procedure in Rajya Sabha. In spite of this limitation, members have often taken recourse to raising matters during Zero Hour to ventilate the public grievances.

I am personally of the opinion that raising matters during Zero Hour serves the useful purpose of ventilating public grievances of urgent

nature but I strongly feel that the practice should not be misused to raise political point, as often, this leads to commotion in the House from which no one benefits.

The second subject and the most important subject concerning us all, which we have chosen for discussion relates to parliamentary Privileges and the publication of proceedings of the Legislatures by the media. This controversy exists in different States. We have the rights and privileges of the members on the one side and on the other side we have the rights and privileges of the Press, that is freedom of speech. I have tried to elaborate the issue because I thought that for further discussion it may be necessary.

Each House of the Indian Parliament or that of a State Legislature collectively and its members individually enjoy certain powers, privileges and immunities which are considered essential for them to discharge their functions and duties effectively without let or hindrance. When any individual or authority disregards or attacks any of the privileges, rights and immunities, either of the members or of the House or its Committees, the offence is termed as a breach of privilege punishable by the House. Each House is the guardian of its own privileges. It is not only the sole judge of any matter that may arise and which, in any way, infringe upon its privileges or amount to its contempt, but can, if it deems it appropriate punish persons for such acts.

As an important medium of communication between the Parliament and the people, it is the foremost responsibility of the Press to inform the people of correct news and true facts. Absolute immunity from proceeding in any court of law has been conferred under the Constitution on all persons connected with the publication of proceedings of either House of Parliament, if such publication is made by or under the authority of the House under article 105(2) of the Constitution. This immunity does not, however, extend to the publication of reports of parliamentary proceedings in newspapers, whether published by a member of the House or by any other person, unless such publication is expressly authorized by either of the Houses.

Statutory protection has also been accorded to the publication in newspapers or broadcasts by wireless telegraphy of substantially true reports of any proceedings of either House of Parliament, provided the reports are for the public good and are not actuated by malice.

This protection has been accorded within the overall limitation that the House has the power to control and, if necessary, to prohibit the publication of its debates or proceedings and to punish for the violation of its orders.

Article 118 of the Constitution of India provides that each House of

Parliament may make rules for regulating, subject to the provisions of the Constitution, its procedure and conduct of its business. Rule 379 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha empowers the Speaker, Lok Sabha to get a full report of the proceedings of the House, at each of its sittings, published in such form and manner as he may direct from time to time. Each House has the power to control and if necessary, to prohibit the publication of its debates and proceedings. Normally, no restrictions are imposed on reporting the proceedings of the House. But when debates or proceedings of the House or its Committees are reported *mala fide* or there is wilful misrepresentation or suppression of speeches of particular members, it is a breach of privilege and contempt of the House and the offender is liable to be punished. It is also a breach of privilege and contempt of the House to publish any part of the proceedings or evidence given before or any document presented to, a Parliamentary Committee before such proceedings or evidence or documents have been reported to the House.

I am giving some illustrations which are really of great importance. The Committee of Privileges of the First Lok Sabha in the *Sundarayya case* recommended and I quote:-

> "It is in accordance with the law and practice of the privileges of Parliament that while a Committee of Parliament is holding its sittings from day to day, its proceedings should not be published nor any documents or papers which may have been presented to the Committee or the conclusions to which it may have arrived at, referred to in the Press... It is highly desirable that no person, including a Member of Parliament or Press, should, without proper verification, make or publish a statement or comments about any matter which is under consideration or investigation by a Committee of Parliament."

So, in other words, the Committees have also, been given the same status as that of the Parliament in respect of the proceedings.

Similarly, any publication of a draft or approved report of a Parliamentary Committee, before such report has been presented to the House, is treated as a breach of privilege of the House.

No reflection can be made by anybody on the recommendations of a Parliamentary Committee. The Committees are entitled to the same respect as Parliament. Therefore, if anybody casts reflection on the decisions or conduct of a Committee, it is a breach of privilege of the entire House.

The Press would have to adhere to the various norms governing the parliamentary privileges before publishing proceedings of Parliament and of the Legislatures.

Freedom of speech of the members in the House is absolute. Fortunately, this has been made clear by the Supreme Court also. I would like to recall the famous *Tej Kiran Jain case.*

In 1969, one Shri Tej Kiran Jain and some others filed a suit in the High Court of Delhi against Shri Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, the then Speaker, Lok Sabha and four other members of Parliament in respect of certain critical observations made by them in the Lok Sabha on 2 April 1969 during the proceedings of the Calling Attention Notice regarding the reported statement of the *Shankaracharaya* of Puri on untouchability and his reported insult to the National Anthem. On the Attorney-General pointing out to the High Court that under article 105(2), no suit could be entertained, the High Court dismissed the suit. Shri Jain, however, appealed to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court while dismissing the appeal on 8 May 1970 observed and I quote the observation of the Supreme Court:-

> "The article 105 confers immunity *inter alia* in respect of "anything said in Parliament". The word "anything" is of the widest import and is equivalent to "everything". The only limitation arises from the words "in Parliament" which means during the sitting of Parliament and in the course of business of Parliament. Once it is proved that Parliament was sitting and its business was being transacted, anything said during the course of that business was immune from proceedings in any court. What they say is only subject to the discipline of the rules of Parliament, the good sense of the members and the control of proceedings by the Speaker. The courts have no say in the matter and should really have none."

In 1957, a member of the Bihar Legislative Assembly, during his speech on the general discussion on the Budget, made some critical references. On a point of order raised by a member, the Speaker expunged certain portion of the speech. This is also a case known probably to everybody. The *Searchlight,* magazine published a report containing the expunged portion of the speech.

Later, a member of the Assembly gave notice of a question of privilege against the *Searchlight* and the matter was referred to the Privileges Committee. On the direction of the Committee of Privileges, the Editor of the *Searchlight,* Shri M.S.M. Sharma, was served with a notice, requiring him to show cause, as to why action should not be recommended against him for breach of privilege in respect of the offending publication.

The Editor of the *Searchlight* filed a petition under article 32 of the Constitution with the Supreme Court of India. He contended before the Supreme Court that the said notice and the proposed action by the

Committee of Privileges were in violation of his fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression under article 19(1)(a).

Interpreting clause (1) of article 194, the Supreme Court in its judgment delivered on 12 December 1958, observed, and I quote:

> "In our judgment the principle of harmonious construction must be adopted and so constructed, the provisions of Article 19 (1) (a), which are general, must yield to article 194 (1) and the later part of its clause (3) which are of special nature.
>
> A report of the whole speech in such circumstances though factually correct, may, in law, be regarded as perverted and unfaithful report and the publication of such a perverted and unfaithful report of a speech, that is, including the expunged portions in derogation to the orders of the Speaker passed in the House may, *prima facie,* be regarded as constituting a breach of the privilege of the House arising out of the publication of the offending news item."

On 20 April 961, a member of the Lok Sabha raised a question of privilege regarding publication of a news item and a photograph of Shri J.B. Kripalani, a member, with the caption 'The Kripaloony Impeachment' in the *Blitz*. He tried to criticise this in the *Blitz*. The *Blitz* is a very famous Weekly. It is a weekly news magazine of Mumbai. It was published in April 1961. Some defamatory words were mentioned in the article against the member on his speech in the House. The matter was referred to the Committee of Privileges.

The Committee held the view that the impugned dispatch constituted a breach of privilege and contempt of the House.

The Editor of the weekly, however, filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court under article 32 of the Constitution. Shri Karanjia was the Editor, if I am right. The petitioner had prayed for the reconsideration of the earlier decision of the Supreme Court in the Searchlight case. The Supreme Court, however, dismissed the case. The Editor of *Blitz* was later summoned to the Bar of the House and reprimanded.

On 26 March 1969, Shri Bhupesh Gupta, a member of the Rajya Sabha drew the attention of the House to a photostat copy of the Punjab Appropriation Bill, 1968 to show that the Governor had signed that Bill without any certificate thereon signed by the Speaker of the Punjab Legislative Assembly. Again, it is a very interesting case. You are all aware that unless the Bill is signed by the Speaker, it is not signed by the Rashtrapati. Later, on being approached by a Police Officer from Chandigarh in connection with the investigation of a case of alleged theft of the original of the above Bill, Shri Bhupesh Gupta raised the matter in the House and said that such visits by a Police Officer were a serious interference with the work of a member of

Parliament and indeed constituted a gross breach of privilege of the House.

The matter was referred to the Committee of Privileges which held that any investigation outside Parliament of anything that a member said or did in the discharge of his duties as a member of Parliament would amount to a serious interference with the member's right to carry out his duties as a member.

A procedure was, however, laid down by the Committee to assist in the administration of justice. According to this, the investigating agencies should not approach the member directly but through the Home Minister and the Speaker. And if the member wishes to oblige them, without in any way, compromising his own privileges, it is good, If he does not, the investigating agencies should find other avenues of investigation.

Friends, these are important topics on which we will have opportunities here at this Conference for serious and meaningful discussions by way of sharing our views and experiences, I am sure that our deliberations will be fruitful and we will be able to come out with invaluable ideas and positive suggestions.

There is no doubt that our country is passing through a momentous phase in its history. Significant changes are taking place in almost all spheres of our life. The body-politic too has undergone stupendous change. This is truly reflected in the composition and character of our Legislative Bodies as well. In such circumstances, the role of Presiding Officers has become all the more complicated, and very often, we are faced with stresses and strains in regulating the business of the House, Yet, these are facts of today's parliamentary life and all of us, together, should endeavour to see that representative institutions in our country continue to blossom and become more responsible and responsive to the people's aspirations,

Before I conclude, I would like to express my hearty thanks and gratitude to our hosts, the honourable Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde; honourable Chairman, Maharashtra Legislative Council, Prof. Narayan Sadashiv Pharande; honourable Speaker of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Shri Arunlal Govardhandas Gujarathi, honourable Deputy Chairman of the Maharashtra Legislative Council. Shri Vasant Shankar Davkhare, honourable Deputy Speaker of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Shri Pramod Bhauraoji Shende, Officers of the Maharashtra Legislature Secretariat, the Government of Maharashtra and to all those who are instrumental in organising this Conference and for their gracious hospitality.

With these words, I have great pleasure inaugurating this Conference.

Thank you very much.

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES AT THE INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE TO MARK THE GOLDEN JUBILEE OF THE PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

An International Parliamentary Conference was held in New Delhi from 22 to 24 January 2003, as part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Indian Parliament. During these three days, discussions were held on four topical issues. Keynote Addresses were delivered by four different Speakers during the Theme Sessions. The First Session held on 22 January, devoted to the Theme, 'Combating Terrorism' commenced with a Keynote Address by the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Shri K.C. Pant. The Second Session, held on 23 January 2003 was devoted to 'Parliamentary Practices and Procedures: Need for Reforms to Secure Greater Executive Accountability'; and the Keynote Address on this Theme was delivered by the Leader of the Opposition, Lok Sabha, Smt. Sonia Gandhi. On the third day, *i.e.*, 24 January, discussions were held on two topics, *viz.* 'Parliament as a Vehicle of Social Change' and 'Parliament in the Era of Globalisation and Liberalisation'. The Keynote Address of the former Theme was delivered by the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla while the Keynote Address of the latter Theme was delivered by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Communications and Information Technology, Shri Pramod Mahajan.

We reproduce below the text of the Keynote Addresses delivered by these dignitaries on the four Themes.

-Editor

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, PLANNING COMMISSION, SHRI K.C. PANT ON "COMBATING TERRORISM"

Mr. Speaker, Lok Sabha, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates and Friends:

The developments over the past year have brought the issue of international terrorism to the centre stage of world politics. Despite this phenomenon having been around for decades, it has not received the attention it deserved over the years. It took the dramatic images of the World Trade Centre (WTC) collapsing on our TV screens for the international community to wake up and to realise the nature and the gravity of the threat. Better late than never. The threat of State sponsorship of terrorism is finally being recognised arid steps are being taken to combat the menace. It is increasingly being accepted that

terrorism can only be effectively tackled through a global and comprehensive approach and not in a piece-meal manner.

Just three months later, on 13 December 2001, the sacred institution where we have assembled today was saved from destruction by the timely action of a few brave security personnel. The driving force behind both the incidents was the same.

It was the same terrorist breeding ground, the same production factories and the same intelligence professionals who trained and financed Mohd. Atta and his co-terrorists as also those who have been pushing *jehadi* terrorists into India. New linkages in the web of terror in Pakistan are being revealed to US investigators each day.

Before I delve further into the subject, I shall attempt what has probably been the most difficult task in dealing with the subject of terrorism, that is, I shall try to define it. The problem here is that many pundits on the subject contend that one man's hero can be another's terrorist. Here I disagree. The act of terrorism is one which is designed to strike terror into innocent non-combatants and cannot be condoned by any yardstick. Still, I shall briefly state the factual position regarding various attempts made to define the act of terrorism.

The European Union provisionally agreed in December 2001 that "terrorist offences" constitute those "intentional" acts that may "seriously damage a country or an international organisation" when committed with the aim of "seriously intimidating a population, ... unduly compelling a Government or an international organisation to perform or abstain from performing any act, or seriously destabilising or destroying the fundamental, political, constitutional, economic or social structures of a country or an international organisation."

Section 2331 of Title 18 of the United States code defines international terrorism as occurring primarily outside the United States and involving "violent acts or acts dangerous to human life that are a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any State, or that would be a criminal violation if committed within the jurisdiction of the United States or of any State" and that appear to be intended "to intimidate or coerce a civilian population; to influence the policy of a Government by intimidation or coercion; or to affect the conduct of a Government by assassination or kidnapping."

The UK Terrorism Act of 2000 defines terrorism as "the use or threat of action *inter alia* involving serious violence against a person, serious damage to property, serious risk to health or safety of the public, etc., for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause or to influence the Government or to intimidate the public or a section of the public."

The draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism submitted by India to the UN states that terrorism is an action taken "unlawfully and intentionally" with the intent to cause "death or serious bodily injury to any person; or serious damage to a State or Government facility, a public transportation system, communication system or infrastructure facility with the intent to cause extensive destruction of such a place, facility or system, or where such destruction results or is likely to result in major economic loss" when the purpose of such an act is "to intimidate a population or to compel a Government or an international organisation to do or abstain from doing any act."

In India, under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, a terrorist act is defined as an act committed by a person or persons with the intention of threatening the unity, integrity, security or sovereignty of India or striking terror that results in death or injuries (or likelihood thereof), destruction or damage to property, disruption of essential supplies or services, damage or destruction of equipment to be used for the defence of India or for other purposes of Government, or detention of any person with the intention of compelling the Government of India to abstain from or do any act. A terrorist act also includes the raising of funds intended for the purpose of terrorism.

Based on the above definitions, one can arrive at the following agreed principles as constituting an act of terrorism:

- Terrorism involves the use or threat of use of violence to intimidate;
- Such violence may be directed against innocent civilians, the Government or Government facilities or both; and
- Terrorism always has an agenda designed to advance a particular cause.

However, differences on what constitutes terror among nations has prevented the development of an internationally accepted definition of terrorism. The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) in a resolution in June 2000 while condemning terrorism in all its forms reaffirmed that the "struggle of peoples under colonialist or alien domination or under foreign occupation, for their national liberation or to regain their right to self-determination, does not constitute an act of terrorism." This apparent justification of violence against civilians, however, flies in the face of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. 51/210 of January 1997 which, in addition to strongly condemning all acts, methods and practices of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable wherever and by whomsoever committed reiterates–and this is important–that considerations of political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or other nature cannot be invoked to justify them.

It will be impossible for the international community to successfully

combat terrorism without first arriving at an international and universally acceptable definition of terrorism. Without such a consensus, one man's terrorist will remain another man's freedom fighter. There should be no "good" and "bad" terrorists and no double standards.

The nature of terrorism has changed over the years. Terrorist groups have modernised themselves, acquired new techniques and technologies as well as tactics. The standard terrorist tools–the AK rifle and conventional car bombs–show signs of being replaced by jet aircraft and weapons of mass destruction. The experience of WTC is an early warning sign. Techniques of mass destruction are increasingly within the reach of terrorist groups and non-State actors. Unfortunately for us, the epicentre of international terrorism has shifted to the southern Asian region. Nuclear, chemical, biological and radiological materials are also available here.

The terrorist factories in the Pak-Afghan region owe their sustenance directly to the Pakistani military and intelligence establishment. The Taliban were creatures of those religious schools in Pakistan which instead of fostering religion took to preaching hatred. It was this hatred that culminated in the destruction of the World Trade Center, that was responsible for the terrorist attack on the Indian Parliament and on the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly some months later.

You would all, I expect, be familiar with the recent reports in the media of the linkages that have been established between Pakistani nuclear scientists and the Al Qaeda terrorist network. The organisation was known to have invested substantial time and energy in acquiring weapons of mass destruction. Some reports had suggested that they had set up a facility to produce some chemical agents in a remote region in Afghanistan. The organisation was also in touch with Chechen rebels with the objective of penetrating the Russian strategic establishment to acquire such weapons. What is of concern to us is that fundamentalists are believed to have deeply penetrated the Pakistani nuclear and military establishment. Pakistan's nuclear don A.Q. Khan reportedly admitted on interrogation by US investigative agencies that links in fact existed between Pakistani nuclear scientists and the Al Qaeda terrorists network. Pakistani scientists have been arrested and interrogated by the United States agencies in this connection. One of the key objectives of the US forces in Pakistan is to prevent Pakistani nuclear weapons or materials from falling into the hands of such elements.

With weapons of mass destruction–nuclear, chemical, biological or radiological within reach of the terrorist groups—, nation States need to be that much more vigilant. We have taken some steps to examine this new threat and have made some preliminary moves towards putting a damage limitation system in place. However, much more needs to be

done, including a dialogue at the highest level with like-minded countries in order to develop methods to alleviate this threat.

Terrorists and insurgents the world over have for years relied on the narcotics trade to finance their activities. It is no coincidence that the terrorist epicentre in Pak-Afghanistan is also one of the major heroine producing regions of the world. Drugs produced in this region find their way to the streets in the cities of Europe and America. The money generated is used to buy weapons, explosives and to train terrorists for action against those very targets. *Hawala* transactions are extensively used to move these illegitimate funds from one part of the world to another. If terrorism is to be tackled, it is imperative that the sources of their finance and money laundering operations are traced, identified and neutralised.

That terrorist groups are going hi-tech and using new and more innovative means in their operations is borne out by the increasing use of the cyber medium by these groups for co-ordination, command and control. Most of the terrorist cells which have been busted of late by intelligence and security agencies were found to be computer savvy (some of them had even set up cyber cafes as their cover). They recorded, sent and received plans and instructions by e-mail.

A day may come when the computer replaces the AK 47 as the terrorists' favourite weapon. With economies increasingly becoming dependent on rapid information transmission for development, cyber attacks on information nerve centres may end up causing much more damage than a car bomb blast or an attack with conventional weapons. Such an attack could take place from anywhere in the world and would be difficult to counter. We need to arm ourselves in advance to face this threat. India has substantial expertise in software technology. Perhaps, some time and effort could be invested in developing counter measures to face the problem of impending cyber attacks.

I will now turn to the situation in the South-Asian region. This requires particular focus because for one it has emerged as the epicentre of international terrorism and second, because the kind of support terrorist groups receive from across the border is unprecedented in the history of international terrorism. Developments over the past year have vindicated the Indian position that global terrorism is radiating outward from the Afghan-Pak region and that the Pakistani nation state has a major role to play in providing support and sustenance to terrorist groups both in India and all over the world. Just how far it has radiated was evident on our TV screens in September 2001 when the WTC dissolved under its onslaught.

That said, we are glad that the international community has finally begun paying heed to what we had been saying for so long. The hunt for terrorists in Pakistan is on. Every day we hear of the Americans

having unearthed new cells of the Al Qaeda in Pakistan. One cannot deny that the US is achieving limited success in its operations despite the support and protection provided to terrorist groups by elements within the Pakistani army, Government and, of course, religious parties.

Therefore, while there has been some success in dismantling the terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan, we have reports that the Pak intelligence agencies are relocating terrorists to PoK, that is, Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, and re-deploying them against India in Kashmir. Pakistani intelligence agencies are increasingly making use of the territory of our other neighbours–Nepal and Bangladesh–to create instability in the Indian heartland. While these countries are appreciative of the scale of the problem, the fact remains that terrorists seek to infiltrate into India by taking advantage of the nature of the borders between those countries and India.

I, therefore, feel that unless the source of terrorism–the training camps run by Pakistani intelligence agencies and fundamentalist parties–is neutralised, the problem will not disappear. Terrorists will continue to be produced at the factories run across the border in PoK. They will continue to attack Indian interests as they have done for so long but will eventually turn on the West once again. The Americans should consider tackling the root of the problem and not just its manifestation in Pakistan.

Going to the root will not be easy. Religious fundamentalism and violence are deeply entrenched in the Pakistani society. It will, therefore, be necessary to bring about a change within Pakistan. The mindset of the decision-makers and Pakistanis at large would need to change. Just as Japan was de-militarised and Germany was de-Nazified, so also Pakistan has to be de-radicalised. This will have to be a long drawn out process involving concerted use of economic, social, political and military pressures. Policies that buttress vested interests such as the fundamentalists and the military should be avoided. It is in the Indian national the security interest as well as in the interest of global security that the international community work in a concerted manner to bring about such a change.

Some believe that the "root causes" of terrorism must first be tackled before the problem can be adequately addressed. While this may *prima facie* sound reasonable, it needs to be remembered that root causes of social problems can often be traced to a multiplicity of factors such as poverty, ethnic tensions, chauvinism, religious fundamentalism, military or autocratic rule, erosion of democratic institutions and so on. How much each of these factors contributes to the instability that sustains terrorism is questionable. Therefore, one must not lose sight of the fact that terrorism can never be justified, no matter what the causes– real or imaginary. There are legitimate means to address socio-

The Leader of the Opposition, Lok Sabha, Smt. Sonia Gandhi delivering the Keynote Address on the Theme 'Parliamentary Practices and Procedures: Need for Reform to Secure Greater Executive Accountability'

The Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla delivering the Keynote Address on the Theme 'Parliament as a Vehicle of Social Change'

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Communication and Information Technology,
Shri Pramod Mahajan delivering the Keynote Address on the Theme
'Parliament in the Era of Globalization and Liberalisation'

The Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Shri K.C. Pant delivering
the Keynote Address on the Theme 'Combating Terrorism'

economic issues and espouse political causes, particularly in institutionalised democratic societies. Causative factors should certainly be addressed. However, that should not weaken the resolve or vigour of the fight against terrorism.

Maintenance of human rights is the duty of any democratic and plural society. Most advanced democracies have, over the years, evolved institutions to ensure that human rights of the citizen are not violated by the State or by the groups within it. However, international human rights groups have a tendency often by virtue of their charter only to highlight violations by security forces and Governments. The human rights violations by terrorist groups go unnoticed. Fortunately, this trend is beginning to change. It is increasingly being recognised that while nation-States, particularly democratic and institutional ones, are bound by laws, terrorists respect no laws. For them, their cause justifies anything. This belief allows them to break any law, disregard any moral code and trample all human rights. This is not all. While indulging in the murder and killing of innocents, they and their sponsors then go on to draw the attention of the international human rights groups as victims.

The fact that the international community has at last begun paying some attention to the scourge of international terrorism is a welcome development. However, much more needs to be done.

At the tactical level, the UN Security Council Resolution 1373 shows us the way by laying down broad parameters for international cooperation in fighting terrorism. This includes prevention and suppression of terrorist finance, freezing of assets of terrorist organisations, exchange of operational intelligence and information, entering into bilateral and multilateral arrangements to prevent terrorists from acquiring refugee status in other countries and taking strict action to break the nexus between terrorism and organised crime. The basis of UNSC Resolution 1373 was that no nation-State must support terrorism in any way—active or passive. Every State must realise that terrorism anywhere, even if far removed and not an immediate direct threat, can over time become a scourge which can destroy civil society. It must, therefore, be put down wherever and whenever it raises its ugly head,

In order to effectively combat terrorism, the following specific measures could be considered:

- Root out the financial resources and support to terrorist outfits to squeeze them. Greater transparency and monitoring of banking transactions would be necessary to achieve this.
- Ensure international cooperation to track down sources of terrorist finance, including *hawala* transactions and laundering of drug money.

- Compile and regularly update data on terrorism and terrorist organisations and share this in real time with concerned countries.
- Plan and carry out joint intelligence-based operations to neutralise terrorist outfits and undertake as necessary, operations to retaliate against terrorist acts committed in any part of the world.
- Institutionalise cooperation against the threat of Weapons of Mass Destruction, terrorism and encourage international cooperation in tactics and methodologies to deal with the threat.
- Conduct a media campaign against terrorism that creates awareness among people in general and the young in particular about how damaging to themselves and self-defeating it could be to provide any kind of support to terrorists or terrorist organisations.
- Develop multi-purpose international cooperation to facilitate action —administrative, police, economic and judicial —against terrorism and terrorists.
- Enact analogous legislation against terrorism in all member countries of the international coalition to facilitate and arrest, extradition, trial, and punishment of terrorists cutting across international boundaries and barriers.
- Finally, the international coalition against terrorism should ensure that any State not cooperating or that is continuing to aid and abet terrorists anywhere should be appropriately penalised.

The scourge of terrorism today is a reality that all civilised nations—particularly democratic societies–would have to contend with. Democracies by virtue of the freedom that they accord to their citizens are generally more vulnerable to the scourge. If the issue at stake is the trade-off between some freedom and security, we should be willing to accept some curbs. In the United States where individual freedom has been worshipped as a religion and zealously guarded over the years, citizens are today willing to give up some individual rights for the sake of security. Terrorists do not fight fair. They hit below the belt. They do not distinguish between innocent civilians and combatants. Trading a little freedom for security is a small price to pay to fight this menace.

India has had to introduce a new legislation to deal with the terrorist threat. While using this effectively to deal with terrorists, the Indian State needs to ensure that the powers it now wields should be used judiciously and above all should not be misused for individual or partisan gain. If this happens, it would be the greatest insult to Indian democracy and to this institution which frames and makes those laws.

I am sure that with a judicious mix of political incentives, action by security forces and diplomatic pressure on our errant neighbour, the Indian nation-State will face the looming threat of international terror and emerge victorious.

Thank you.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE LEADER OF OPPOSITION, LOK SABHA, SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI ON "PARLIAMENTARY PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES: NEED FOR REFORMS TO SECURE GREATER EXECUTIVE ACCOUNTABILITY"

Honourable Speaker, Distinguished Guests, Excellencies and Friends:

Although this is the second day of this Conference, let me take this opportunity to once again welcome all of you on this historic occasion.

We are meeting against the background of a grave crisis not only in West Asia but also in North-East Asia. Parliamentarians everywhere have a special responsibility to strengthen the forces of dialogue, of peace and amity in these troubled times. The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) has a crucial role to play at this juncture. The need for multilateralism has never been as great and as urgent as it is now.

The distinguished speakers at the Inaugural Session yesterday spoke extensively on parliamentary democracy in India. This democracy has flowered and flourished. I will not be exaggerating if I say that there are no precedents in history for a democracy of over a billion people living in a society of the greatest diversities and varieties. In a multi-religious, multi-linguistic, multi-ethnic and multi-regional society without a parallel anywhere, parliamentary democracy is an established vehicle not just for representation but also as an instrument for empowerment. The record of a relatively young Indian nation—state in managing these bewildering array of diversities, admittedly amidst trials and tribulations, is one of the major achievements of contemporary times that has great lessons, I believe, for the rest of the world as well. The credit for this must inevitably go to the structure of our democratic fabric carefully designed and handed down to us by our founding fathers, individuals of exceptional ability and unusual acumen moulded into a team by Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of our Nation. They drew inspiration from our Freedom Movement, from our unique cultural heritage and the values that put both tolerance and high-minded ideals at centre-stage. Today, it is only appropriate to recall their vision and in particular that of India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru whose single greatest contribution was to make that vision a living reality and consolidate the foundations of our parliamentary democracy.

As we all know, there are different models of democracy in general and of parliamentary democracy in particular. India, broadly speaking,

opted for the Westminster model. We also drew upon other Constitutions. Over the past five decades, we have made necessary adjustments to suit our conditions, changing times, contemporary challenges and bearing in mind, above all, the evolution of our pluralistic polity and society. Our written Constitution, the longest and the most detailed in the world, put together under the enlightened leadership of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, has proved to be remarkably resilient and flexible. The institutions created by our Constitution have ensured that parliamentary democracy provides the framework within which all our people's voices are heard and their aspirations pursued. Historically, our parliamentary democracy has been viewed largely in terms of a national Parliament and Assemblies in the States. Over the past decades, a third layer has re-emerged in India's villages, in India's towns and cities. Elected rural and urban self-Government bodies are imparting a whole new dimension to our democratic edifice. You will be interested to know that there is affirmative action in the form of quotas for women in these institutions. This was largely due to the untiring efforts of our late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. As a result, as our Vice-President mentioned yesterday, of the approximately 3 million elected representatives that we have at the grassroots, over a million of them are women. I might add that we, as women, have been trying for some time for Parliament to pass a legislation giving us 33 per cent seats. We have not succeeded yet. But we shall continue to pursue the matter. The nature and character of our parliamentary democracy is undergoing a significant transformation as local bodies become more vibrant and assertive. How to have a strong Centre, strong States, and strong local self-Government institutions deriving strength and sustenance from each other is really one of the greatest political challenges that we face as we complete the first half-century of parliamentary democracy in our country.

This morning, our session is on reforms in parliamentary practices and procedures to enforce greater accountability on the Executive. Now, it is one of the ironies of parliamentary democracy that where you stand depends on where you sit– a party discovers the need for a strong and effective Executive when it is in power and for a strong and effective Legislature when it is out of office. How to maintain consistency and yet offer to the people a real choice and alternative is something that all of us have to grapple with.

The link between legislation and Executive accountability is something that has been pre-occupying us for quite some time. Many of our State Governments, for instance, have passed Freedom of Information Acts, to make the functioning of the administration more transparent and more accountable. In some States, civil society organisations are using these legislative provisions to demand answers and responses from the Executive.

We have also experimented with the Committee System that was first introduced here in our Parliament in 1993. Our Parliament, for instance, has 17 specialised committees that meet regularly to review Government programmes and policies, to interact with the Executive, to get feedback and advice from independent experts and professionals and to serve as a forum to question the Government of the day. I am sure there will be a discussion on how best the effectiveness of the Committee System can be further enhanced.

In any parliamentary democracy, the 'Question Hour' is a period when members get the opportunity to question the Executive. I am quite aware that there is a cynical view that 'Question Hour' provides excellent training for civil servants to say a lot without conveying much, to say the truth while being bland with facts. Our experience sometimes does bear this out but that does not mean that we abandon 'Question Hour'. In fact, I myself feel that an hour is insufficient and there is clearly a need for increasing its span.

Then there is 'Zero Hour', that is uniquely an Indian parliamentary practice, that perhaps comes naturally to us since it is India that invented and gave the world Zero itself! This 'Zero Hour' gives members a chance to raise local and the national issues that they consider important with the permission of the Presiding Officer. It is also true that very often lung power is in full display between 12 noon and 1 p.m. and that too in a variety of languages. I might tell you that in our Parliament there are 18 official languages and members can choose to speak in anyone of them, of course, with prior permission from the Chair. But again my view is that both 'Question Hour' and 'Zero Hour', if given proper structure and if managed well, have great potential to keep the Executive on its toes.

A certain amount of confrontation and an adversarial relationship between the Executive and the Opposition is inevitable in any parliamentary democracy. However, if Parliament is to evolve into a mechanism for sustaining a consensus, then the Executive itself has to take its parliamentary obligations and responsibilities in an accommodating spirit of give and take. Jawaharlal Nehru himself set an example in this regard and no aspect of Parliament's functioning, big or small, escaped his personal attention and involvement. He was responsive not only to members of his own Party but also to the demands of the Opposition believing as he did that the Opposition has as much a role to play in the functioning of parliamentary democracy as the Executive. Speaking in the very first session of Parliament, he said and I quote: "Parliamentary democracy demands many virtues. It demands, of course, ability. It demands a certain devotion to work. But it demands also a large measure of cooperation, of self-discipline and restraint."

In recent years, Parliaments everywhere have come in for criticism

and have, at times, invited certain cynicism, even indifference. It is not a phenomenon peculiar to India only. It cannot be denied that there has been an erosion of parliamentary authority. Indeed, the larger public image of Parliament has suffered as its deliberations, more often than not, end up generating more heat than light. Increasingly, people themselves are demanding that Parliament becomes not just a forum for discussion but also a force for action. People have come to expect much more than stirring and eloquent speeches and sharp interventions. We have to respond effectively to these new demands and heightened expectations. It is also true that at times speed is of the essence and there may well be occasions when the Executive has to press ahead. But as long as a parliamentary democracy is in place, Executive action has to be sensitive to parliamentary imperatives. This naturally calls for both formal and informal channels of consultation and communication between the Executive and Parliament at all times.

To enforce greater accountability on the Executive, members of Parliament have to be fully informed. Research and documentation facilities available to them must be up-to-date. New information and communication technologies make this possible and their widespread use is a pre-requisite for transparency and for making the Executive even more alert. Throwing open all parliamentary proceedings to the electronic media could also enable the system to be more open and to ensure better preparedness on the part of all concerned. Ultimately, the manner in which the Presiding Officers themselves manage parliamentary institutions will determine how accountable the Executive will be.

Our theme this morning has many dimensions and I have touched upon only a few of them. I am sure that as we proceed this morning, many more ideas and many more suggestions would come up.

Finally, I would like to say that the presence of so many of you, particularly from the developing world, is most reassuring and satisfying.

India is a country where social diversities are celebrated and where economic development is robust. Both are a consequence of our deep and abiding commitment to parliamentary democracy.

I thank you all once again for being with us this morning.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, RAJYA SABHA, DR. (SMT.) NAJMA HEPTULLA ON "PARLIAMENT AS A VEHICLE OF SOCIAL CHANGE"

Mr. Manohar Joshi, Speaker, Lok Sabha, Honourable Speakers of various Parliaments, Fellow Parliamentarians and Friends:

I stand before you in this historic Central Hall of Parliament where our Constitution was adopted. I look around and see the portraits of all those men and women who sacrificed their lives to free this great

ancient nation–India–from the bondage of colonialism. I feel emotional because I have some historic connections with one of those leaders whose portrait is in this Hall and whose signature is also on the Constitution which was adopted half a century ago.

While solemnly adopting our Constitution, the people of India affirmed it as a Democratic Republic. It is my proud privilege to welcome you all at this momentous occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Indian Parliament. In the last fifty years, Indian Parliament has been the trustee of the aspirations of our people. It has given voice to their expectations.

Since then, the Indian Constitution has been the basis of our democratic governance. Our national ideology is pronounced in its Preamble. The Fundamental Duties of the citizens and the Directive Principles of State Policy set the broad parameters of our national endeavour. The Constitution guarantees certain Fundamental Rights that the citizens enjoy and those have been scrupulously defended by the Parliament, the Judiciary, the civil society and the media.

Fifty years ago welcoming the members of the first Parliament, the first President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, whose portrait is just there, had said:

> "Destiny beckons us and it is for us to respond to its call. That call is for the service of this great land of India, which has passed through good fortune and ill fortune alike since its story began many thousands of years ago, at the dawn of history. During these many years, greatness has come to our land and tragedy has also been our fate. Now that we stand on the threshold of another phase of India's long story, we have to determine afresh how best to serve here."

The promise which we made half a century ago that Parliament is the repository of our collective conscience, we have to uphold at any cost.

To appreciate how parliamentary democracy has changed the society, one has to read this Constitution against the historical backdrop of India. The Constitution envisaged Parliament as the focal point in the national polity and democratic governance. Not only that we have stabilized our democratic institutions at every level, but we have also been renewing the popular mandate through the elections at regular periodicity. With more than 600 million voters, it is indeed a mammoth task. Every election results in the emergence of new social forces, newer agenda for governance and newer constituencies and interest groups. The Parliament is the forum to evolve consensus among such a diverse interest. Only parliamentary democracy can carry together the multiple diversity of a plural society like India.

Though the Constitution is neutral in respect of religion, race, caste and gender, it is sensitive towards the historical drawbacks some sections have suffered. Affirmative discrimination for the historically marginalised sections has been provided for. Our democracy not only gives these sections an opportunity to participate but also proactively persuades them to join the social mainstream. In the last fifty years, despite severe challenges, democracy has held to its promise to the people of India.

India has a long democratic tradition. We have recorded historical evidences of representative assemblies and consultative bodies existing during the Vedic period in the second millennium before Christ. Elected professional associations used to advise the King on governance and economic matters. It was imperative for the King to honour their advice.

However, the evolution of modern democracy was the outcome of the urge for social change. It gave expression to popular desire to fashion their own destinies. The turning point came with the signing of the *Magna Carta* by the British Monarch in 1215 that made Monarchy more participatory.

Democracy evolved through the Glorious Revolution, American and French Revolutions to become more inclusive, participatory and representative. The literary traditions of this period provided the intellectual foundations for democracy. These writings questioned the very legitimacy of existing hegemonies and hierarchies.

As a system of political equality, it was easier and natural for democracy to co-opt the socialist ideal of egalitarianism that emerged in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. As the power to make their own laws came to people, the power of the church also diminished correspondingly. Devoid of religious influences, democracy is the secular mode of governance. It gives freedom to rationality, ideas and their free expression. It promotes debates for the consensus of ideas and convergence of diversities.

Democratic governance facilitates social change and progressive trends in society. It alters the inherent social hegemonies and gives chance to newer egalitarianism. Political equality ought to be followed by equality in opportunities for economic development and social empowerment. Democracy has to be ever-expanding process. It gives precedence to newer interests and trends over existing hegemonies.

As the President of the IPU, I democratised the IPU by making it more participatory and interactive with other international institutions. It was my earnest commitment to make democracy even more interactive, participatory, inclusive, representative and responsive. I joined Transparency International and INTOSAI on the International Conference

on Probity and Integrity in Public life at The Hague. Parliaments, as the legitimate forum for scrutiny of the executive, have to uphold the principle of probity, accountability and integrity in public life. As an institution, we are the trustees of popular aspirations and faith.

I felt the need for greater interaction with other inter-governmental bodies like the UN system, World Trade Organisation (WTO) or Bretton Woods institutions like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). It was essential to make a concerted impact. I have been explaining to the inter-governmental organisations about the need to involve Parliaments in their efforts, as Parliaments are the sole law-making institutions. Policies, legislations and budgets have to be passed by the Parliaments. They can be the interlocutors between people and governments in inter-governmental negotiations. Involving parliamentarians will give negotiations a representative character and greater acceptability in national Parliaments.

The IPU has developed a sustained dialogue with the WTO on the current trade regime in the wake of repeated controversies. On the occasion UNCTAD X, I sought a level playing field for the developing nations who were being subjected to non-tariff barriers like environment and labour standards. On the gender issues, the IPU provided its support to the Beijing Platform of Action. We published surveys on gender partnership in polity. The parliamentary community expressed its concern about the growing debt burden on the Least Developed Countries at the recent UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries at Brussels. We have repeatedly asked the developed countries to fulfil their commitment by earmarking 0.7 per cent of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as developmental assistance.

Similarly, the IPU provided parliamentary inputs to the UN Conferences on Environment at Rio and Social Security at Copenhagen. In our resolutions, we have adopted and supported the Plans of Action adopted at these Conferences. As the President of the Union, I have asked the parliamentary community to support and adopt these Plans according to their national requirements as it would have an effect on social development. We joined the United Nations Childrens Fund (UNICEF) on the issue of children as they are the driving force for future.

I am pleased that the IPU in association with specialised UN bodies has published handbooks for parliamentarians. We published such a Handbook on the Human Rights of HIV affected in association with the UNAIDS. Similar handbooks were published on humanitarian laws with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), on Child labour with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and on Refugee Laws with the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights (UNHCR). These have been very enriching experiences for me as a parliamentarian.

I proudly remember that the Heads of Parliaments met at the Millennium Summit at the UN to jointly chalk out the agenda for the challenge before the democratic world, whether social, economic or political. The Preamble of the United Nations says 'We, the People.' But I feel, 'We, the parliamentarians', who are the representatives of the people can rightfully say instead of 'We, the people', it is, we, the people's the representatives.'

These efforts indicate the expanding agenda before the world parliamentary community. Parliaments shall have to respond to these issues. These issues require the support of commensurate enabling policies and national legislations.

Even as parliamentary democracy expands its agenda, it appears that existing gender imbalances in polity still do not figure high enough on our priorities. Women are still not sufficiently represented in Parliament and not even in this Conference. I agree with the views of the Honourable Chairman, Rajya Sabha and Vice-President of India, who in his address at the inaugural session, underlined this existing gender discrepancy in Parliaments and Legislatures. It was here in Delhi in 1997, that on my initiative the IPU convened a specialised Conference on gender partnership in politics. We adopted the Delhi Declaration seeking sufficient representation for women in Parliaments and political organisations. The Year of Empowerment has gone in my country, yet the Women's Reservation Bill still languishes. Parliamentary democracy must remove existing gender imbalances. Without the participation of women, democracy is not fully representative.

Democracy is never static. It has a capacity to renew its agenda according to the aspirations of the people. This agenda is periodically scrutinised and endorsed by the public through their mandate in elections. It has also been recognised that there is no standard democracy. It can be different in different countries according to cultural experiences and the aspirations of the people. There is an encouraging trend towards bicameralism in national Parliaments. Bicameralism gives opportunity to broaden the base of parliamentary democracy and include more and more interest groups or professional associations in the parliamentary institutions. It gives a chance to experiment with innovative electoral systems.

Non-governmental Organisation (NGOs), media, political parties, region-specific forums, issue-specific parties like The Greens, etc. are the newer emerging groups in democracy. With the modern technologies and communication networks, there are newer modes of interaction among citizens and also among democracies. With the IT revolution, democracy has become more interactive internationally. We can expect stronger public opinion and larger campaign with the emergence of new communication technologies that transcends the sovereign boundaries

of nations. The global media provides a forum to build public opinion. These trends are obviously going to affect democracy.

With globalisation, where markets, technologies and investments are gradually integrating, there is an obvious question about the efficacy of domestic governance. I believe that only democracy can be a bridge between globalisation and the aspirations of the local communities. Only Parliaments as the supreme law making institutions can fine-tune globalisation to include the local requirements. There are apprehensions that the current globalisation may lead to cultural, economic and political hegemonies that may undermine an equitable world order and cultural diversity. It is, therefore, imperative to democratise the international institutions. People too should have stakes and a say in globalisation, which has so far remained confined to markets.

As the President of IPU, it was my endeavour to involve parliamentarians in every international negotiation on economic, social or political issues. By the representative character we can discount the possibility of any domination at international negotiations. To make international relations more transparent and equitable, parliamentary diplomacy must be brought to the forecourt. Parliamentarians are the representatives of the people. They can broaden the base for globalisation by enjoining a dialogue between the people.

It was my dream to encourage the parliamentarians to initiate the dialogue among cultures and civilisations. In pursuance of this objective at the first ever IPU Conference of the millennium that took place in Amman, we resolved to support such initiatives. Parliamentarians can be cultural representatives of their people. In the face of the recent emergence of sectarianism, it is necessary to impress upon the inherent unity of humanism. I am convinced that only a democratic order can facilitate such unity of human kind.

In contrast to this, the recent emergence of fundamentalism and terrorism poses the greatest challenge before democracy. I vividly recall that while presiding over the IPU Conference at Berlin on 12 October 1999, I welcomed Nigeria which had revived its parliamentary democracy after a military coup, as the member of IPU. During the same Conference, I was elected the first ever woman President of the IPU and that too from this very Asia-Pacific region; we also had to suspend Pakistan as the military there toppled democracy and established a dictatorship.

The attack on the Indian Parliament on the 13th December 2001 was not just an attack on the supreme legislative institution of India, but it posed a massive ideological challenge before the democratic world. Terrorism is against everything democracy stands for. It is dogmatic, generates hatred and legitimises use of violence against innocent

citizens. It forces hegemonic domination through violence. It uses religion and culture to divide the unity of humanity. Only democracy can defeat such retrograde ideology by building bridges among people and cultures.

Friends, during the last decade, a wave of economic change has been ushered in in many developing countries. This restructuring of economy needs political consensus and legislative support. Parliaments are debating the direction and speed of these changes so as to minimise the unwarranted effects of this restructuring. Last week, I addressed the Asian regional conference on business law where I said that it is essential that parliaments respond to technological advances and business trends to secure maximum benefit of development. We are entering into a new age of networks in business, technology and knowledge. Parliaments shall have to provide firm legal framework and policy incentives to encourage these trends. Yet, we shall have to ensure that the benefits of the new economy are distributed equitably and widely. Social and distributive justice shall remain the basis of democratic polity. Markets can generate wealth but only democratic governance can ensure social justice.

Fellow Delegates, I end with a few lines of the great poet and Nobel laureate Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore whose portrait is just in front of me. I quote:

> "Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high
> Where knowledge is free
> Where the world has not been broken up into fragments
> By narrow domestic walls.
> Where words come out from the depth of truth
> Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection
> Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way
> Into the dreary desert sand of dead habit
> Where the mind is led forward by thee
> Into ever-widening thought and action
> Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake."

This was the dream of the great poet and thinker. Is it not our dream as well, the dream of parliamentarians of the world who represent the people of our countries from different parts of the world gathered here together to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of our Indian Parliament? I feel it can only be achieved through democracy which is the only vehicle of social change.

Thank you.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN ON "PARLIAMENT IN THE ERA OF GLOBALIZATION AND LIBERALIZATION"

Honourable Chairman and Distinguished Delegates:

It is really a great honour to speak before the parliamentarians from almost all over the world. I was just thinking why the Honourable Speaker chose me as the Keynote Speaker for such an important discussion. Then I realised the subject which all of us are discussing here that is "Parliament in the Era of Globalisation and Liberalisation". The first and foremost principle of globalisation and liberalisation is that there is no 'free lunch'. And as the afternoon lunch was hosted by me, I think, the Honourable Speaker thought it proper that this lunch should not be free for you and you should bear the Keynote Speaker's speech as the cost of the lunch which was offered to you just now. Otherwise, I really do not see any merit in me to be the Keynote Speaker in such a distinguished gathering.

Liberalisation is today's *mantra,* Like democracy, every nation, every society claims to be wedded to liberalisation. Forget about controlled economies, we are not even talking about regulated economies. By the way, regulated economies are not that bad as thought to be.

Anything regulated need not necessarily be controlled. The times have so changed that forget about controlled economies, leave aside regulated economies, all of us are talking about liberalised economies, competition, free market and consumer benefits. So, one can say that if the whole world is talking about liberalisation, naturally liberalisation has to be beneficial to the entire human society.

I am very sure that like in India everybody is experiencing the fruits of liberalisation in every country. It may be a graded one or it may be a different one but liberalisation is showing changes in all our lives, Naturally, where liberalisation ends, globalisation begins. They are like Siamese twins: one cannot exist without the other. You cannot have a liberalised economy in an isolated country and just as you cannot be a part of globalisation and have a controlled economy. So, to be a part of globalisation, you need a liberalised economy; and once you have a liberalised economy, you transcend yourself to a globalised process. So, globalisation and liberalisation may seem to be two different words with two different shades of meaning but as I said they are like Siamese twins.

Frankly speaking, there is nothing new in globalisation; the phrase may be new but the face is not. From time immemorial one nation is trying to have trade and commerce with another nation. The nature of trade and commerce may be different from what it is today but if you

look at the sixth century, the seventh century, or even before Christ, people tried to have trade with other nations. Even the United States was discovered by a person who intended to go to India to have trade. So, trade and commerce between two nations is nothing new. Globalisation is not a new process.

Most of us are unfortunately part of that era when the entire colonisation history originated from finding new markets. Finding new markets was the first stage from where the whole colonisation history was brought up. So, globalisation is nothing new. What is new now in globalisation from the globalisation in the period of Vasco da Gama or Huen Tsang? What is new in the 21st century? Why has globalisation become a world phenomenon?

There are two changes that were absent in the earlier kind of globalisation. The first is the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Revolution. The ICT revolution was not available in the past when we thought of having trade and commerce with other countries. The other change is the creation of the WTO. The ICT revolution on the one hand and the WTO's creation on the other have made globalisation a reality, not a myth. It is a hard fact of life; it is not a choice. The ICT revolution and the creation of the WTO have made globalisation a part of life. Leave it or take it, it is your choice; but as I said you are not even left with a choice if you want to survive in the 21st century.

Now, let us look at the ICT revolution. Being the Minister of Information Technology and Communications, I can speak upon it for hours but I would take only a couple of minutes to show you how our lives have changed. The information technology revolution has changed our lives beyond imagination. Gone are the days when communication between two people was difficult. Today, the information and communication technology has changed to such a level that we are talking about e-commerce. Now, what is 'e-commerce'? E-commerce makes the world really borderless. Our passports and our visas are likely to become redundant soon. In order to have trade and commerce with your country, I need not visit your country; and as I do not need to visit your country, I do not need a passport from my country and neither a visa from yours. We are likely to enter a world which is truly a global village, which I would rather call a borderless world, where even passports and visas may become things of the past.

Many people talk about information technology as if it is a great technology. It is a great technology which has changed our lives beyond imagination. For many people, it is big business. Many people think, if you have a crazy idea, overnight you would become a millionaire, but if you ask me, information and communication technology is neither a mere technology nor a business venture. Information technology is the fourth generation of human communication. When we came on the

planet, the first generation communication between us was in gestures. The second generation communication was the spoken word, maybe English, Arabic, Urdu or Hindi. The third generation communication was the written word or the script. Information technology is the fourth generation human communication, which is digital–01-01-01. I can say that this fourth generation of human communication has combined the earlier three generations. If gestures are picturised on video in today's language, if spoken language is the voice and if the written language is the data, then what comes out of voice, video and data put together on one wire or even wireless platform is information technology.

When the medium of communication between two human beings changes, it changes everything. All the rules would be changed. Members of Parliament asked me as the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to give a report on a particular subject. The report was of 800 pages. It was not possible for us to make 800 copies for all the members of Parliament. So, we requested the Honourable Speaker whether we could give a CD. The first response was that the CD was not allowed under the rules. One can only lay papers on the Table of the House; one cannot lay anything other than papers on the Table of the House. So, we had to change the rules to say that even CDs could be laid on the Table of the House! I have just given one example. Right from this rule, every law and every book would have to be re-written in a digital language. So, this ICT revolution has in one way or the other changed the world and really made it global.

Now, let us look at the WTO. This is a new creation which has really changed the globalisation process. The WTO is not a world government.

It is neither a powerful world government nor a harmless global NGO. Millions of people do not know what WTO is, yet WTO affects their lives. So, naturally, an WTO has to be just and fair to anybody and everybody, more so, for the developing and under-developed countries. On the one hand you are creating an ICT revolution, which is likely to create a digital divide, which will be the harshest divide in the history of human beings, even greater than the economic and social divide. That is the challenge. The second is, you have one institution called WTO which can take one decision and the lives of millions of farmers in a country which is thousands of miles away from the Ministerial Conference, will be ruined or benefited, whatever may happen. I do not want to say what will happen. For lack of time, I cannot elaborate how powerful an institution we have created, but one can say that with the combination of the ICT revolution and WTO creation, globalisation and liberalisation, Parliament is faced with new challenges.

Now, what is the first and foremost challenge of the parliamentarians? Why we are all elected here? The first and foremost duty is, we are legislators. We have to legislate. Normally, all over the world,

Parliament talks more and legislates less. Maybe, we are fed up with legislations because there are too many legislations, new legislations. But today, on the one hand, ICT being the fourth generation of human communication, every law will have to be re-written in a new language, and on the other hand, WTO is going to create a regime in which our Parliaments will have to merge with each other. So, merging the WTO regime with our sovereign regime in one way, and using this new language which was not there till a few years back make our challenge as legislators very difficult. On the one hand, we have to take care of the national aspirations of our own people and on the other, we do not have to behave or sound obstructive to the new world order which is likely to be created. This is the most difficult job. I know, once when my Prime Minister introduced me to the Prime Minister of Singapore and he said to him: "He is Mr. Pramod Mahajan. He looks after Parliamentary Affairs and Information Technology", the Singapore Prime Minister looked at me from top to bottom and then said: "These are two incompatible Ministries. One is the fastest moving and the other is the slowest moving. I do not know how one person can have the responsibility of two such Ministries." But sometimes I think we will have to find a way that the fastest moving fourth generation language and our Parliament legislations merge together. So, with the ICT revolution and WTO creation, merging with the legislation is the biggest challenge for all of us and all laws, as I said, will have to be re-written.

Now, this era has an inherent problem which every country is facing or is likely to face. In this era of liberalisation and globalisation, what worries me is, what will happen to localisation. When we talk about market forces, the first principle of market forces is, money goes to money. Now, there is no more controlled economy. You cannot direct a particular industry to go to a particular State. You cannot ask a particular person to have his industry in a particular backward area. So, wherever there is a developed infrastructure, people will go and where there is no developed infrastructure, nobody will go. People will say to you that you develop an infrastructure if you want investment. They would say, they would not invest unless you are developed, and we will say, we cannot be developed unless you invest. So, there is always a chicken-and-egg situation created. One does not know how to deal with it. So, naturally, the parliament and the parliamentarians will have to guide not only the Executive but the entire nation that in an era of globalisation and liberalisation, how we should take care of localisation. In the earlier session, you talked about social justice. Everything comes under what kind of development we will create. If the market forces decide that money goes to money, then what will happen to poverty, what will happen to the different kinds of divides? So, liberalisation and globalisation might have given 'N' number of benefits to all of us, but they have created a small problem of localisation, and

we, as parliamentarians, will have to decide the destiny and a new triangle will have to be created in the new era. The new triangle will be completed only if localisation is added to globalisation and liberalisation. So, a triangle of localisation, globalisation and liberalisation we the parliamentarians will have to create.

Now, naturally, every Legislature will have to work according to its own Constitution. Everybody has a different Constitution, of a different size. There are countries where the Executive is answerable for everything, and there are countries where the Executive is answerable up to a limit. There are countries where treaties are necessarily to be ratified and there are countries where treaties are not necessarily to be ratified; the Executive is the final repository. At least in India, one can say with pride that the Indian Parliament and its Committee System are doing a commendable job in controlling the legislative business, in giving them the proper guidance, on how this factor of localisation can be merged into a liberalisation and a globalisation era. I am sure, your Legislatures may be doing such things. But I think in our discussion today, sharing of such experiences will be a very nice thing.

Friends, before I conclude, let me throw—I do not say a stone–a thought into this world intellectual pool of parliamentarians, just to create a few ripples, if possible, in the next two hours' discussion. The question before me is with no answer at this juncture. The question is, will this era of globalisation and liberalisation, lead to a global Parliament? The WTO, World Bank and IMF are world institutions. They take decisions which affect billions of people without the participation of these people. Half of the world lives in less than one dollar a day and we get a prescription of destroying all safety nets which we call subsidies. Hundreds of thousands of people lose their jobs instantly when the WTO takes one decision. In such major things of globalisation and liberalisation, where is the people's participation? Let us be clear about it. With full support to liberalisation and globalisation, let us be clear about it. Today's era of globalisation and liberalisation has an economic support. It lacks the necessary political support. The era has an economic support. There is no doubt about it. Ask an economist, he will support it. If you ask a politician, he is still confused about it. If you want to make this era of globalisation and liberalisation successful for humanity, naturally, we need more and more people's support. Now, when we talk about post-Cold War—I am not talking about post-World War—what are the two things that have emerged after the Cold War had ended? The post-Cold War era has given two things to the world—one is democratisation, and the other is globalisation. As far as democratisation is concerned, this is a boon and, therefore, today, even a dictator has to show to the world that he has people's support to get legitimacy. It means that you would not get legitimacy unless you are a democrat. Is it not a contradiction that on the one side, democratisa-

tion gives legitimacy, but on the other side, globalisation has no support of democracy? Naturally, what we need to do is to ponder and get greater citizen participation in globalisation and liberalisation.

Now, do we need a global Parliament and is it possible? Some pessimists will show us the limitations of the United Nations, but the optimists will show us the example of the European Union. In the beginning, without compromising the sovereignty of the member-nations, the European Union started as an advisory body and, slowly, the European Parliament, in my personal opinion, is now becoming a full-fledged Parliament without compromising on anything. More and more nations want to join it now. If you are neither a pessimist who looks at the limitations of the United Nations nor an optimist who thinks that the European Union is showing the way to the world Parliament, and if you are a realist, then I can say that to make the era of globalisation and liberalisation a success, politicians and the parliamentarians will have to think in terms of whether it will lead to a global Parliament and what kind of changes this global Parliament will bring, whether it will hinder the progress of liberalisation or it will add to liberalisation. To me, people's participation is a must for success anywhere. Therefore, globalisation cannot be successful unless there is people's support. If you think that you will get people's support from a global Parliament, you have to create some kind of mechanism and it is for you to decide.

These were the few questions and answers which I had in my mind and which I expressed before you. Before taking my seat, I would like to say one thing that I am speaking here in my personal capacity and my Government may not necessarily agree with what I have said.

Thank you.

4

MEMBERS OF THE THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA: A SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDY

G.C. MALHOTRA

Introduction

India – perhaps as no other country in the world – has a vast range of socio-economic and cultural orientations emerging out of multi-lingual, multi-religious and multi-regional ethos of the people. This diversity has fostered a unique cultural heritage in this country. In our multi-cultural society with 'Unity in Diversity' being an oft-repeated aspiration, the representative polity seeks to accommodate these diverse ideas within a framework of shared values and ideals. This spirit is prominently visible in the membership patterns of our popularly elected House of Parliament – the Lok Sabha. Although the wide-ranging diversity prevalent in different walks of social life is reflected in the socio-economic background of the members of the Lok Sabha, they are united by a common cause, *i.e.,* the welfare of the people. The Thirteenth Lok Sabha also seeks to achieve this goal.

This study endeavours to make an analysis of the socio-economic background of members of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha on the basis of their age, education, occupation, political affiliation, marital status and past legislative experience. An assessment has also been made of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha in comparison with the Twelfth Lok Sabha as also the earlier Houses wherever necessary, to draw certain conclusions about the general trends of representation. Similar analysis has also been made with regard to women's representation. A statistical profile of new members has also been included in the study.

Composition of the House

Following the General Elections held in September/October 1999, the Thirteenth Lok Sabha was constituted on 10 October 1999. Subsequently, on 28 October 1999, elections were held in six parliamentary constituencies which were not held earlier along with the rest of the constituencies. This was followed by by-elections in Bellary and Kannauj. Shri Kolur Basavanagauda was elected from the Bellary constituency in Karnataka, the seat vacated by Smt. Sonia Gandhi; and Shri Akhilesh Yadav was

elected from the Kannauj constituency in Uttar Pradesh, the seat vacated by Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav. It is pertinent to mention that Smt. Sonia Gandhi and Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav had contested and won elections from two constituencies each. As per provisions of article 331 of the Constitution*, the President of India nominated following two members of the Anglo-Indian community to the Lok Sabha: Shri Denzil B. Atkinson and Dr.(Smt.) Beatrix D'Souza.

By-elections were held again on 26 May 2000 and 5 June 2000 to fill two Lok Sabha seats, Aska in Orissa and Panskura in West Bengal. Smt. Kumudini Ratnaik was elected from the Aska constituency, the seat vacated by the Biju Janata Dal President, Shri Naveen Patnaik. Dr. Bikram Sarkar was elected from the Panskura constituency, by-election to which was necessitated due to the death of CPI veteran, Smt. Geeta Mukherjee. As on 23 August 2000, there were two vacancies due to the untimely demise of Shri Rajesh Pilot (Dausa) and Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam (Tiruchirapalli).

As regards representation from diverse political parties, the number of parties in the House touched an all time record of 39. The House, therefore represents a variety of ideological shades.

Our Constitution provides that subject to the provision for nomination by the President of two members from the Anglo-Indian community, the House of the People (Lok Sabha) shall consist of not more than five hundred and thirty members chosen from different territorial constituencies in the States and not more than twenty members from the Union territories. (Table 1 indicates the detailed party position in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha as on 23 August 2000**).

Although bio-profiles of all the 543 members constitute the basis of this study, in some cases necessary information in respect of various parameters like date of birth, educational qualification, occupation, etc. were not available. The study and the various conclusions are based on the information furnished by members relating to various parameters***.

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* Article 331 of the Constitutiion provides that notwithstanding anything said in article 81, the President may, if he is of the opinion that the Anglo-Indian community is not adequately represented in the House of the People, nominate not more than two members of the community to the House of the People.

** The study is based on membership of Lok Sabha, as on 23 August, 2000.

*** Similar studies for the previous Lok Sabhas have appeared in various issues of the Journal of Parliamentary Information. In this particular study, however, some of the percentage-wise figures in Table Nos. 3, 4 and 7 have been rounded off to bring the overall total to 100. As such, there may be minor variations in these figures as compared to those included in the earlier studies which appeared in the *Journal*.

Table 1

STATEWISE PARTY POSITION AS ON 23.8.2000

Name of States	TOTAL SEATS	BJP	INC	CPI(M)	SP	AIADMK	RJD	SAP*	TDP	BJD	CPI	SAD	JD(U)	TC	DMK	SS	BSP	RSP	NCP	IND	VACAN-CIES	OTHERS	TOTAL
Andhra Pradesh	42	7	5	—	—	—	—	—	29	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1(a)	42
Arunachal Pradesh	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Assam	14	2	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1(b)	14
Bihar	54	23	4	1	—	—	7	10	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	54
Goa	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Gujarat	26	20	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26
Haryana	10	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5(c)	10
Himachal Pradesh	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1(d)	4
Jammu & Kashmir	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4(e)	6
Karnataka	28	7	18	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28
Kerala	20	—	8	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4(f)	20
Madhya Pradesh	40	29	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	40
Maharashtra	48	13	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	—	—	6	1	—	3(g)	48
Manipur	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1(i)	2
Meghalaya	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Mizoram	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Nagaland	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Orissa	21	9	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21
Punjab	13	1	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1(j)	13
Rajasthan	25	16	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	24**
Sikkim	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1(k)	1
Tamil Nadu	39	4	1	1	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	1	10(l)	38***
Tripura	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Uttar Pradesh	85	29	10	—	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	—	—	1	—	5(m)	85
West Bengal	42	2	3	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	9	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	2(n)	42
Andaman & Nicobar Is.	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Chandigarh	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Delhi	7	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7

Lakshadweed	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pondicherry	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Daman & Diu	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total	543	182	112	33	26	10	7	11	29	10	3	2	10	9	12	15	14	3	8	6	2	39	541

* SAP (Samata) a break–away group of Janata Dal (United) w.e.f 23.7.2000
** Dausa–vacant
*** Tiruchirapalli–vacant
(a) All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen–1;
(b) Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) (Liberation)–1;
(c) Indian National Lok Dal–5;
(d) Himachal Vikas Party-1;
(e) Jammu & Kashmir National Conference–4;2
(f) Kerala Congress–1; Kerala Congress(M)–1; Muslim League Kerala State Committee–2;
(g) Bharipa Bahujan Mahasangha–1; Peasant and Workers Party of India–1; Janata Dal (Secular)–1;
(i) Manipur State Congress Party–1;
(j) Shiromani Akali Dal (Simrajit Singh Maan)–1;
(k) Sikkim Democratic Front–1;
(l) Pattali Makkal Katchi–5; Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam–4; M.G.R. Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam–1;
(m) Samajwadi Janata Party (Rashtriya)–1; Akhil Bharatiya Lok Tantrik Congress–2; Rashtriya Lok Dal–2;
(n) All India Forward Bloc–2;

Abbreviations used in respect of parties represented in the Lok Sabha:

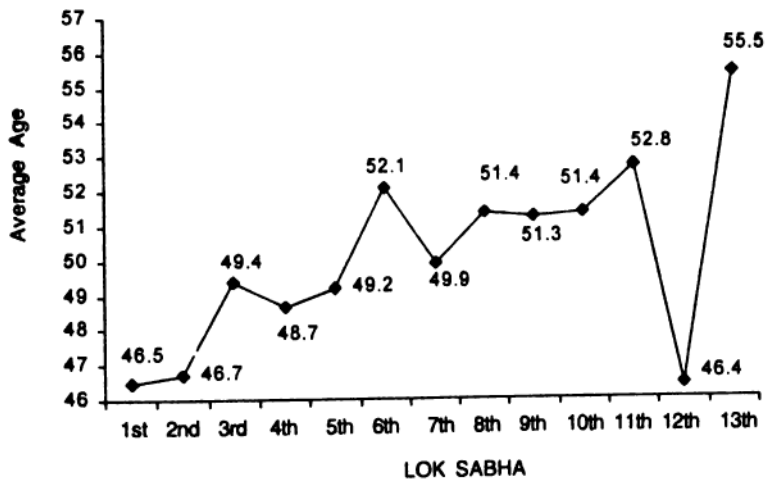
AIADMK–All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam
BJD–Biju Janata Dal
BJP–Bharatiya Janata Party
BSP–Bahujan Samaj Party
CPI–Communist Party of India
CPI(M)–Communist Party of India (Marxist)
DMK–Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam
INC–Indian National Congress
IND–Independents
JD(U)–Janata Dal (United)
RJD–Rashtriya Janata Dal
RSP–Revolutionary Socialist Party
SAD–Shiromani Akali Dal
SAP–Samata Party
SP–Samajwadi Party
SS–Shiv Sena
TDP–Telugu Desam Party
TC–Trinamool Congress
NCP–National Congress Party

Age profile

There are no statutory provisions regarding upper age limit for membership of Parliament. The Constitution, however, prescribes a minimum age of 25 years to contest elections for membership of the Lok Sabha and 30 years for membership of the Rajya Sabha.

In comparison to an average age of 46.4 years in the Twelfth Lok Sabha, the Thirteenth Lok Sabha records an average age of 55.5 years (calculated on the basis of the information furnished by 541 members). The First Lok Sabha recorded an average age of 46.5 years. The data relating to the average age of members in various Lok Sabhas, as indicated in *Graph 1,* reveals that in terms of averages, the Thirteenth Lok Sabha emerges as the 'oldest House' so far. Interestingly, its predecessor, *i.e.* the Twelfth Lok Sabha, was the youngest House among the thirteen Houses constituted so far.

Graph 1: **AVERAGE AGE OF MEMBERS FROM 1ST TO 13TH LOK SABHA**



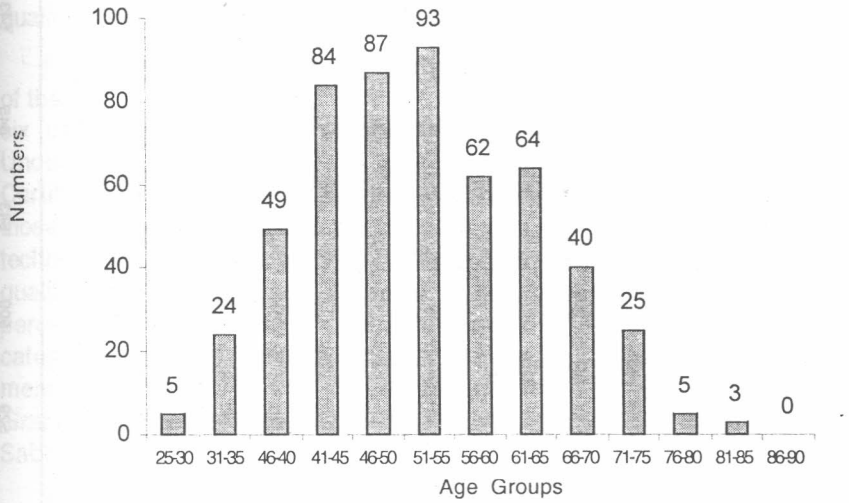
For an age-wise analysis, the members have been classified into 13 different age groups with a span of 5 years each, beginning with the age group of 25-30 years and ending with 86-90 (*Table 2* and *Graph 2).* The composition of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha shows noticeable concentration of members belonging to the middle-aged members, 41-55 years. As the largest representative group in the House, they constitute 48.79 per cent out of 541 members who responded. Their highest representation was in the Fifth Lok Sabha with 53.2 per cent and the lowest was recorded in the Eighth Lok Sabha with 42.1 per cent.

Table 2

DISTRIBUTION OF MEMBERS FROM THE FIRST TO THE THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA BY AGE GROUPS

Age group	1st Lok Sabha		2nd Lok Sabha		3rd Lok Sabha		4th Lok Sabha		5th Lok Sabha		6th Lok Sabha		7th Lok Sabha		8th Lok Sabha		9th Lok Sabha		10th Lok Sabha		11th Lok Sabha		12th Lok Sabha		13th Lok Sabha	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
25–30 years	28	6	13	2.6	11	2.3	22	4.4	16	3.1	18	3.5	9	1.7	7	1.3	14	2.68	8	1.58	11	2.13	11	2.05	5	0.92
31–35 years	54	11.6	60	12.3	34	7.1	37	7.5	28	5.5	26	5	43	8.3	36	6.8	17	3.25	32	6.34	22	4.26	23	4.29	24	4.43
36–40 years	58	12.5	91	18.7	64	13.7	68	13.7	62	12.3	62	11.9	71	13.7	60	11.3	55	10.53	50	9.9	43	8.33	45	8.41	49	9.05
41–45 years	68	14.7	71	14.6	79	16.6	84	17	76	15	69	13.3	75	15.5	73	13.7	76	14.55	75	14.85	77	14.92	78	14.57	84	15.52
46–50 years	74	16	64	13.1	73	15.4	85	17	99	19.6	94	18.1	70	13.5	77	14.5	92	17.62	87	17.23	82	15.89	98	18.31	87	16.08
51–55 years	93	20.3	76	15.6	69	14.5	69	14	94	18.6	94	18.1	84	16.2	74	13.9	82	15.7	71	14.06	80	15.5	83	15.51	93	17.19
56–60 years	47	10.1	70	14.4	58	12.2	55	11	57	11.3	66	12.7	87	16.8	80	15.1	68	13.02	65	12.87	65	12.59	64	11.96	62	11.46
61–65 years	29	6.2	25	5.1	58	12.2	39	7.9	35	6.9	41	8	41	7.9	74	13.9	63	12.06	66	13.07	59	11.43	61	11.4	64	11.82
66–70 years	10	2	12	2.4	31	4.4	25	5	25	4.9	33	6.4	24	4.6	30	5.7	41	7.85	32	6.34	47	9.1	44	8.22	40	7.39
71–75 years	1	0.2	4	1	6	1.2	10	2	9	1.7	11	2.1	11	2.1	11	2.1	12	2.29	14	2.77	19	3.68	19	3.55	25	4.62
76–80 years	–	–	–	–	1	0.2	1	0.2	2	0.4	4	0.7	3	0.6	6	1.1	1	0.19	4	0.79	8	1.55	7	1.3	5	0.92
81–85 years	–	–	–	–	1	0.2	1	0.2	1	0.2	1	0.2	1	0.02	3	0.6	–	–	1	0.2	3	0.58	2	0.37	3	0.55
86–90 years	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	0.19	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total No. of members who supplied information	462		486		475		496		504		519		519		531		522		505		516		535		541	
Total No. of Seats	499		500		503		523		521		544		544		544		529		509		543		545		543	

Graph 2. **AGE-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF MEMBERS OF THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA IN NUMBERS**



An analysis of members belonging to the age group of 25-35 suggests that they have 5.36 per cent representation in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha as compared to 6.34 per cent in the Twelfth Lok Sabha. Similarly, a declining trend is visible in the percentage of very young members (in the age group of 25-30 years) which stands at 0.92 per cent as compared to 2.05 per cent in the previous Lok Sabha. Members belonging to the age group of 56 years of age or above constitute 36.78 per cent of the members in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha compared to 36.82 per cent in the Twelfth Lok Sabha.

The representation of members in the age group of 81-85 years indicates that the Thirteenth Lok Sabha has registered 0.55 per cent representation. Their highest concentration was registered in the Eighth Lok Sabha which recorded the representation at 0.6 per cent. The first two Lok Sabhas and the Ninth Lok Sabha had no representation in this group. While Late Atmaram Maganbhai Patel (81.4 years) was elected as the oldest male member in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha, Smt. Krishna Bose (68.10 years) is the oldest woman member*. Shri Akhilesh Yadav (26.2 years) emerges as the youngest male member in the House while Kumari Bhavana Pandikrao Gawali (26.5 years) is the youngest woman member.

Educational Background

Our Constitution does not prescribe any formal educational qualification for membership of Parliament. However, as shown in *Table 3*,

* As on the cut-off date, *i.e.* 23 August 2000. (Smt. Geeta Mukherjee, who was elected as the oldest Woman member in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha, expired on 4 March 2000)

Table 3

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND OF MEMBERS FROM THE FIRST TO THE THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA

Age group	1st Lok Sabha		2nd Lok Sabha		3rd Lok Sabha		4th Lok Sabha		5th Lok Sabha		6th Lok Sabha		7th Lok Sabha		8th Lok Sabha		9th Lok Sabha		10th Lok Sabha		11th Lok Sabha		12th Lok Sabha		13th Lok Sabha	
	Num-ber	Per-cen tage	Num-ber	Per-cen tage	Num-ber	Per-cen tage	Num-ber	Per-cen tage	Num-ber	Per-cen tage	Num-ber	Per-cen tage	Num-ber	Per-cen tage	Num-ber	Per-cen tage	Num-ber	Per-cen tage	Num-ber	Per-cen tage	Num-ber	Per-cen tage	Num-ber	Per-cen tage	Num-ber	Per-cen tage
Under Matriculates	112	23.48	120	25.48	141	28.77	54	11.81	119	23.15	52	9.8	53	10.03	42	7.9	10	2.09	18	3.57	15	2.9	12	2.26	15	2.81
Matriculates/ Higher Secondary or Intermediate Certificate holders	88	18.44	90	19.1	87	17.75	101	22.11	82	15.95	132	24.9	118	22.35	112	21	94	19.66	44	8.73	94	18.18	89	16.83	48	9
Under-Graduates	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	57	11.31	8	1.55	18	3.4	42	7.9
Graduates (including those with equivalent technical qualification	177	37.1	160	33.97	157	32.04	172	37.63	178	34.63	205	38.7	213	40.34	238	44.65	233	48.75	220	43.65	222	42.94	237	44.8	256	48.03
Post-Graduates (including technical qualifications)	85	17.82	92	19.53	98	20	113	24.73	127	24.7	132	24.9	136	25.76	131	24.58	124	25.94	145	28.77	149	28.82	149	28.17	145	27.2
Doctoral Degree or other higher academic qualification holders	15	3.16	9	1.92	7	1.44	17	3.72	8	1.57	9	1.7	8	1.52	10	1.87	17	3.56	20	3.97	29	5.61	24	4.54	27	5.06
Total number of members who supplied information	477		471		490		457		514		530		528		533		478		504		517		529		533	
Total nummber of seats	499		500		503		523		521		544		544		544		529		509		543		545		543	

Note: All figures in percentage have been rounded off.

more than three-fourth of the members (80.29 per cent) of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha are either Graduates, Post Graduates or have higher qualifications to their credit.

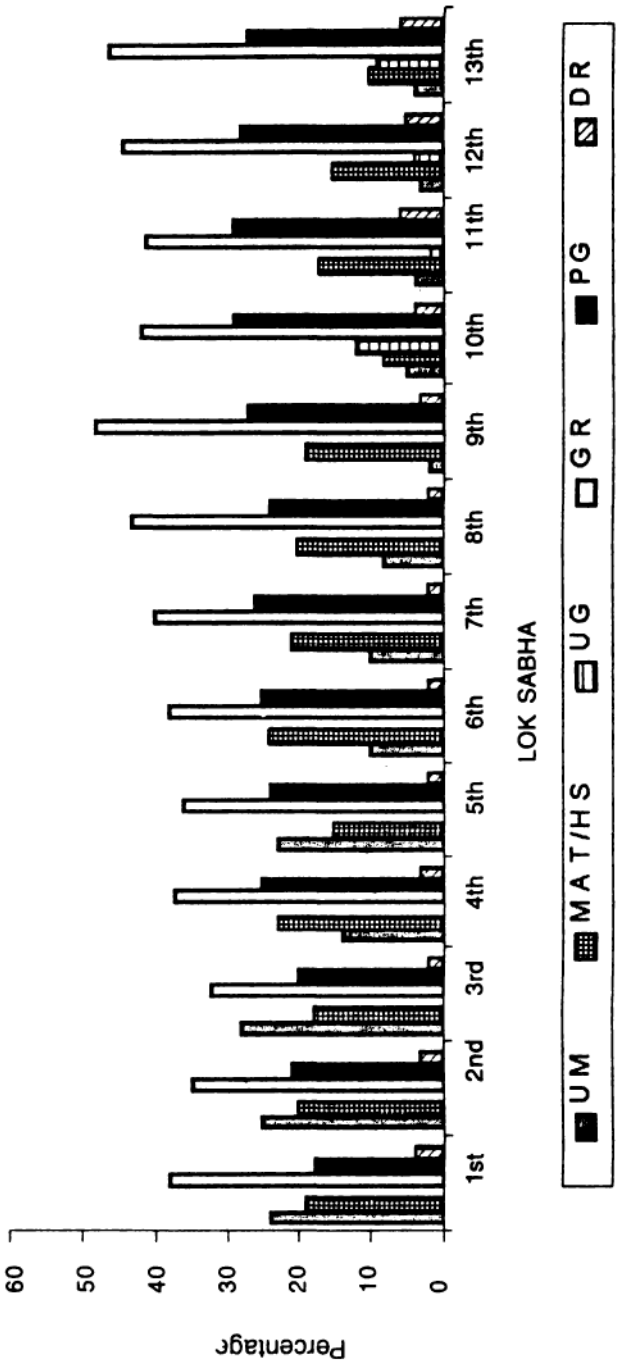
For making a comparative analysis of the educational attainments of the members of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha, they have been put under six categories according to their educational qualifications, *viz.* (i) Under-Matriculates; (ii) Matriculates/Higher Secondary or Intermediate Certificate holders; (iii) Under-Graduates; (iv) Graduates (including those with equivalent technical qualifications); (v) Post-Graduates (including technical qualifications); and (vi) Doctoral degree or other higher academic qualification holders. *Table 3* provides data relating to the number and percentage of members of all the thirteen Lok Sabhas falling into these categories while *Graph 3* indicates the educational background of members, percentage-wise, from the First to the Thirteenth Lok Sabha. *Graph 4*, however, confines itself to the study of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha only.

The Thirteenth Lok Sabha, with 80.29 per cent of its members having educational qualifications of the level of graduation and above, stands as the House with the highest academic qualifications of its members. Going by any single category, Graduates (including those having equivalent technical qualifications) in the House account for 48.03 per cent, slightly lesser than the highest percentage for the category, *i.e.*, 48.75 per cent recorded in the Ninth Lok Sabha. Members having Post-Graduate qualification (including those with equivalent technical education) constitute 27.2 per cent while members with Doctoral qualification or other high academic qualifications account for 5.06 per cent representation in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha. Combined together, the Post-Graduates and Doctorate degree holders constitute 32.26 per cent of the members while in the Twelfth and Eleventh Lok Sabhas, the respective figures were 32.71 and 34.43 per cent.

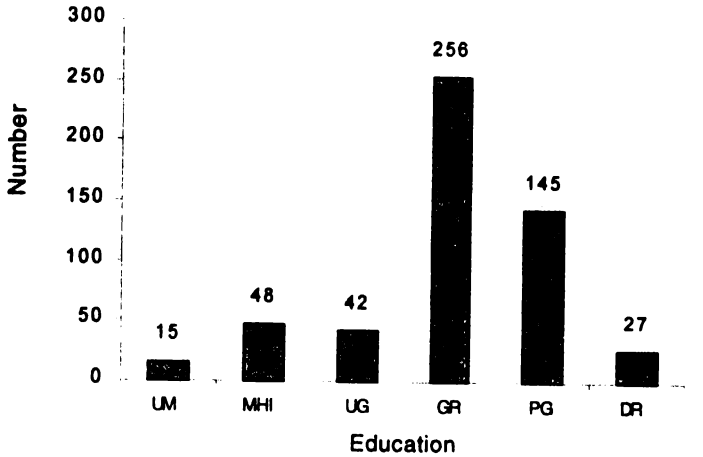
As regards Under-Graduates (*i.e.*, members who studied for Graduation without completing it), this category was included in the study for the first time in the Tenth Lok Sabha. It would be seen that barring some fluctuations, their representation over the years has witnessed a declining trend with the Thirteenth Lok Sabha recording 7.9 per cent representation in this group. This trend is indicative of a consistent increase in the number of members holding Graduation or above as the qualification.

The members belonging to the category of Matriculates/Higher Secondary or Intermediate Certificate holders have 9 per cent representation in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha in comparison to 16.83 per cent in the Twelfth Lok Sabha and 18.18 per cent in the Eleventh Lok Sabha. In the category of Under-Matriculates, the Thirteenth Lok Sabha has 2.81 per

Graph 3: EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND OF MEMBERS FROM 1ST TO 13TH LOK SABHA IN %



Graph 4: **EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND OF MEMBERS OF THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA IN NUMBER**



cent representation, whereas it was 2.26 per cent in the Twelfth and 2.9 per cent in the Eleventh Lok Sabha.

Occupational Background

The category of Political and Social Workers, as a distinct occupational category, was included in the study from the Third Lok Sabha onwards. Therefore, this category is not shown in *Table 4* against the First and the Second Lok Sabha. Similarly, the occupational categories of Diplomats, Economists, and Pilots were included from the Ninth Lok Sabha onwards. The categories of Businessmen, Scientists, and Sportspersons were included for the first time in the study of the Tenth Lok Sabha while the categories of Cooperative Leaders and Management Consultants were included from the Eleventh Lok Sabha. Three new categories, *viz.* Chartered Accountants, Judges, and Veterinarians were included for the first time in the study of the Twelfth Lok Sabha. The study of the occupational background of the members of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha is based on the information available in the case of 539 members out of 543.

As regards occupational background of members, the Thirteenth Lok Sabha is composed of legislators representing diverse professional groups mentioned in *Table 4.* There are as many as 230 Agriculturists constituting about 42.67 per cent of the membership in the House. In the Twelfth Lok Sabha, their number was 261 constituting 49.06 per cent, which was the highest representation of Agriculturists in any Lok Sabha. Agriculturists constituted 38.98 per cent of the Eleventh Lok Sabha, 32.09 per cent of the Tenth Lok Sabha and 44.14 per cent of the Ninth Lok Sabha.

Table 4

OCCUPATIONAL BACKGROUND OF MEMBERS FROM FIRST TO THE THIRTEENTH LOK SABHAS

Prior Occupation	1st Lok Sabha		2nd Lok Sabha		3rd Lok Sabha		4th Lok Sabha		5th Lok Sabha		6th Lok Sabha		7th Lok Sabha		8th Lok Sabha		9th Lok Sabha		10th Lok Sabha		11th Lok Sabha		12th Lok Sabha		13th Lok Sabha	
	Num-ber	Per-cen tage	Num-ber	Per-cen tage	Num-ber	Per-cen tage	Num-ber	Per-cen tage	Num-ber	Per-cen tage	Num-ber	Per-cen tage	Num-ber	Per-cen tage	Num-ber	Per-cen tage	Num-ber	Per-cen tage	Num-ber	Per-cen tage	Num-ber	Per-cen tage	Num-ber	Per-cen tage	Num-ber	Per-cen tage
Agriculturists/ Horticulturists	97	22.45	141	29.01	129	27.45	154	30.62	168	33.2	189	36	206	39.39	203	38.3	230	44.14	163	32.09	207	38.98	261	49.06	230	42.67
Artists	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.2	-	-	-	-	1	0.19	5	0.94	4	0.77	5	0.92	7	1.32	6	1.13	8	1.48
Businessmen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	4.53	29	5.46	8	1.5	22	4.08
Chartered Acct.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.19	2	0.37
Civil, Police & Military Service	16	3.7	19	3.91	4	0.85	16	3.18	17	3.36	9	1.71	5	0.96	16	3.02	6	1.15	16	3.15	13	2.45	10	1.88	8	1.48
Co-operative Leaders	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	0.75	-	-	-	-
Diplomats	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	0.58	4	0.79	4	0.75	2	0.38	-	-
Economists	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.19	-	-	1	0.19	1	0.19	-	-
Engineers and Technologists	-	-	-	-	4	0.85	7	1.39	6	1.18	5	0.95	6	1.15	4	0.75	11	2.11	7	1.38	9	1.69	5	0.94	8	1.48
Former Rulers	5	1.16	7	1.44	10	2.13	7	1.39	2	0.4	3	0.57	1	0.19	3	0.57	2	0.38	3	0.59	-	-	2	0.38	1	0.19
Judges	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.19	1	0.19
Industrial Workers/ Trade Unionists	-	-	-	-	1	0.21	1	0.2	-	-	9	1.71	4	0.76	7	1.32	2	0.38	4	0.79	4	0.75	11	2.07	9	1.67
Journalists/ Writers	45	10.42	50	10.29	27	5.74	24	4.77	32	6.32	11	2.1	15	2.87	7	1.32	14	2.69	11	2.16	8	1.51	7	1.31	9	1.67
Lawyers	153	35.42	147	30.25	115	24.47	88	17.49	103	20.38	123	23.43	116	22.18	101	19.06	80	15.38	83	16.34	65	12.24	54	10.15	66	12.24
Management Consultants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	0.38	2	0.38	2	0.37
Medical Practitioners	21	4.86	17	3.5	14	2.99	14	2.78	9	1.78	10	1.91	10	1.91	21	3.96	18	3.46	25	4.92	18	3.01	17	3.19	17	3.16
Pilots	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.19	1	0.2	2	0.38	-	-	1	0.19
Political and Social Workers	-	-	-	-	88	18.72	115	22.86	96	18.97	105	20	90	17.21	85	16.04	89	17.08	92	18.11	104	19.59	96	18.05	108	20.04
Religious Missionaries	-	-	-	-	1	0.21	4	0.8	2	0.4	-	-	1	0.19	1	0.19	-	-	3	0.59	1	0.19	4	0.75	2	0.37

Scientists	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.2	-	-	-	-	1	0.19
Sportspersons	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	0.39	-	-	3	0.56	2	0.37
Teachers and Educationists	43	9.95	55	11.31	27	5.74	33	6.56	36	7.11	44	8.38	35	6.69	41	7.74	41	7.87	49	9.64	41	7.72	28	5.26	33	6.12
Traders and Industrialists	52	12.04	50	10.29	50	10.64	39	7.76	35	6.92	17	3.24	33	6.31	38	8.79	19	3.65	16	3.15	14	2.64	12	2.25	9	1.67
Veterinarians	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.19	-	-
Total No. of members who supplied information	432		486		470		503		508		525		523		530		521		508		531		532		539	
Total No. of Seats	499		500		503		523		521		544		544		544		529		509		543		545		543	

Political and Social Workers, with 20.04 per cent, constitute the second largest category in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha. Their percentage in the Twelfth Lok Sabha was 18.05. The Fourth Lok Sabha with 22.86 per cent had the highest representation of Political and Social Workers while the Eighth Lok Sabha with 16.04 per cent had the lowest representation. The remarkable consistency in their concentration over various Lok Sabhas is reflective of the fact that the people who make politics a full time engagement, tend to identify themselves as Political and Social Workers.

Lawyers emerge as the third largest group in the House with 12.24 per cent representation. It would be seen that there is a slight increase in their representation as it surpasses the representation of this category in the Twelfth Lok Sabha, which was 10.15 per cent. The fact that they were the single largest group in the first two Lok Sabhas reflected the prevailing socio-political and educational trends of the society at that time. Over all, this category has shown substantial decline, which is evident from the fact that their representation has come down from 35.42 per cent in the first Lok Sabha to 12.24 per cent in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha.

The category of Teachers and Educationists as a group had the highest ever representation of 11.31 per cent in the Second Lok Sabha. Barring some exceptions, there is a declining trend in their representation. This figure was 7.72 per cent in the Eleventh Lok Sabha and 5.26 per cent in the Twelfth Lok Sabha. The percentage of their representation remains at 6.12 per cent in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha showing improvement over their representation in the Twelfth Lok Sabha which was the lowest so far in the history of Lok Sabha.

The professional category of Medical Practitioners has a slightly reduced representation with 3.16 per cent of the members of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha. It is a little lower than the 3.19 per cent representation they had in the Twelfth Lok Sabha.

The representation of Traders and Industrialists, which registered a declining trend in the Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth Lok Sabhas, further declined in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha. Only 1.67 per cent of members of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha are Traders and Industrialists as compared to 2.25 per cent in the Twelfth, 2.64 per cent in the Eleventh and 3.15 per cent in the Tenth Lok Sabha.

The category of Journalists and Writers registered some improvement over the Twelfth Lok Sabha. Compared to 1.31 per cent in the Twelfth Lok Sabha, it comes down to 1.67 per cent in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha. Their highest representation, *i.e.* 10.42 per cent, was recorded in the First Lok Sabha. Overall, this category has also reflected declining trend in its representation in the popular House.

The category of Civil, Police and Military Service improved its representation to 3.15 per cent in the Tenth Lok Sabha but declined to 2.45 per cent in the Eleventh Lok Sabha and 1.88 per cent in the Twelfth Lok Sabha. It further declined to 1.48 per cent in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha.

The representation of Engineers and Technocrats had registered a decline from an all time high of 2.11 per cent in the Ninth Lok Sabha to 1.38 per cent in the Tenth Lok Sabha. After some improvement in the Eleventh Lok Sabha, *i.e.* 1.69 per cent, it again came down to 0.94 per cent in the Twelfth Lok Sabha. Now, the Thirteenth Lok Sabha again shows some improvement with 1.48 per cent.

The representation of Industrial Workers and Trade Unionists has declined in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha and now stands at 1.67 per cent. In the Twelfth, Eleventh and Tenth Lok Sabhas their representation was 2.07 per cent, 0.75 per cent and 0.79 per cent respectively. They had no representation in the first two Lok Sabhas.

As regards the representation of Artists, members belonging to this category constitute 1.48 per cent in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha as compared to 1.13 per cent in the Twelfth Lok Sabha and 1.32 per cent in the Eleventh Lok Sabha.

The representation of Businessmen comes to 4.08 per cent as compared to 1.5 per cent in the Twelfth Lok Sabha and 5.46 per cent in the Eleventh Lok Sabha. There is a decline in the representation of Religious Missionaries. It comes to 0.37 per cent in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha as compared to 0.75 per cent in the Twelfth Lok Sabha. The representation of Management Consultants is 0.37 per cent. Sportspersons have 0.37 per cent representation while former Rulers as a category account for 0.19 per cent in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha. Chartered Accountants register 0.37 per cent representation and Judges 0.19 per cent.

Previous Legislative Experience

It is observed that there is a considerable change in the complexion of the new House. There are 181 (33.33 per cent) new entrants in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha who have their previous legislative experience in either the Rajya Sabha or the State Legislatures or have no legislative experience at all. A break up of the figures would show that out of 181 new entrants to the Thirteenth Lok Sabha, 8 members have experience of serving in the Upper House of Parliament. Out of these 8, two members have experience of serving in the State Legislatures also. As many as 101 members are totally fresh having no experience in the legislature. A total of 173 (31.86 per cent) members do not possess previous legislative experience in either House of Parliament. The

number of new members in the Twelfth Lok Sabha was 217 (39.81 per cent). *Table 5* shows prior legislative experiences of members of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha. As is evident from the Table, the House has no member with experience in the Central Legislative Assembly, or the Constituent Assembly or the Provisional Parliament. There are 362 (66.67 per cent) members who have prior experience in the Lok Sabha and 41 (7.55 per cent) members who possess experience in the Rajya Sabha. 33 members (6.07 per cent) have experience in both the Houses of Parliament while 156 members (28.72 per cent) have experience in

Table 5

PREVIOUS LEGISLATIVE EXPERIENCE OF MEMBERS OF THE THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA

Legislative Experience	Number of Members
Central Legislative Assembly	0
Constituent Assembly	0
Provisional Parliament	0
Lok Sabha	362*
Rajya Sabha	8
State Legislatures	72

* This includes 33 and 156 members who had legislative experience also in the Rajya Sabha and State Legislatures, respectively.

the Lok Sabha as well as State Legislatures. *Table 6* shows that 270 members (49.72 per cent) of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha were members of the Twelfth Lok Sabha; while 206 members (37.93 per cent) were members of the Eleventh Lok Sabha. There are 125 members (23.02 per cent) who had the experience in the Tenth Lok Sabha whereas there are only 3 members (0.55 per cent) who were members of the Second Lok Sabha.

As indicated in *Table 7*, no member of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha holds the distinction of being a member of all the previous Twelve Lok Sabhas. However, the distinguished parliamentarian, Late Shri Indrajit Gupta, besides being a member of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha held the rare distinction of serving the ten Lok Sabhas since the Second Lok Sabha with a gap of only one term, *i.e.*, of the Sixth Lok Sabha. Shri P.M. Sayeed has the distinction of having been elected to nine Lok Sabhas prior to his election to the Thirteenth Lok Sabha. Like the earlier Lok Sabhas, the Thirteenth Lok Sabha also has the maximum number of members with experience in one Lok Sabha only which stands at 145 (26.70 per cent) followed by 110 members (20.25 per cent) who have experience of two Lok Sabhas.

Table 6

NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE SEVENTH, EIGHT, NINTH, TENTH, ELEVENTH, TWELFTH AND THIRTEENTH LOK SABHAS WHO WERE MEMBERS OF EARLIER HOUSES IN THE LEGISLATURE AT THE CENTRE AND NEW ENTRANTS

Legislature	No. of Members In						
	7th Lok Sabha	8th Lok Sabha	9th Lok Sabha	10th Lok Sabha	11th Lok Sabha	12th Lok Sabha	13th Lok Sabha
Central Legislative Assembly (1942-46)	3	3	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Constituent Assembly (1946-50)	3	3	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Provisional Parliament (1950-52)	8	7	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
First Lok Sabha (1952-57)	12	11	3	2	1	Nil	Nil
Second Lok Sabha (1957-62)	22	17	7	5	5	4	3
Third Lok Sabha (1962-67)	33	22	7	9	5	6	4
Fourth Lok Sabha (1967-70)	66	39	23	24	13	10	9
Fifth Lok Sabha (1971-77)	119	73	45	34	18	16	18
Sixth Lok Sabha (1977-80)	143	63	91	52	41	36	26
Seventh Lok Sabha (1980-84)	-	237	131	118	71	59	37
Eighth Lok Sabha (1984-89)	-	-	162	149	78	74	48
Ninth Lok Sabha (1989-91)	-	-	-	249	134	115	80
Tenth Lok Sabha (1991-96)	-	-	-	-	199	161	125
Eleventh Lok Sabha (1996-98)	-	-	-	-	-	253	206
Twelfth Lok Sabha (1998-99)	-	-	-	-	-	-	270
Council of States (Rajya Sabha)	31	10	19	25	14	46	41
New Entrants	150	264	264	183	276	217	181

Going by Ministerial positions, Speakerships or Deputy Speakerships or other parliamentary/public offices held at the Union and/or the State level prior to membership of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha, as indicated in

Table 7

STATEMENT SHOWING PRIOR LEGISLATIVE EXPERIENCE IN LOK SABHA OF MEMBERS FROM THE SEVENTH TO THE THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA (BY TERMS)

Membership of the Lok Sabha	7th Lok Sabha		8th Lok Sabha		9th Lok Sabha		10th Lok Sabha		11th Lok Sabha		12th Lok Sabha		13th Lok Sabha	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Num ber	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
All the Twelve Lok Sabha	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eleven Lok Sabhas (11 Terms)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ten Lok Sabhas (10 Terms)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	0.18
Nine Lok Sabhas (9 Terms)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	0.18	1	0.18
Eight Lok Sabhas (8 Terms)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	0.18	2	0.36	3	0.55
Seven Lok Sabhas (7 Terms)	—	—	1	0.18	—	—	3	0.59	2	0.36	3	0.55	4	0.73
Six Lok Sabhas (6 Terms)	2	0.36	4	0.73	2	0.39	4	0.79	5	0.92	10	1.83	13	2.39
Five Lok Sabhas (5 Terms)	7	1.28	7	12.86	6	1.16	7	1.38	11	2.03	21	3.85	16	2.94
Four Lok Sabhas (4 Terms)	11	2.02	10	1.83	11	2.13	26	5.12	31	5.7	21	3.85	25	4.60
Three Lok Sabhas (3 Terms)	21	3.86	25	4.59	37	7.16	48	9.45	26	4.78	47	8.62	44	8.10
Two Lok Sabhas (2 Terms)	58	10.66	57	10.47	75	14.51	89	17.52	74	13.62	76	13.94	110	20.25
One Lok Sabha (1 Term)	117	21.5	166	30.51	122	23.6	143	28.15	95	17.49	147	26.97	145	26.70
	216		**270**		**253**		**320**		**245**		**328**		**362**	

Table 8, it is observed that there is an increase in the representation of members who had held such high offices. As many as 87 members of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha were Ministers in the Union Council of Ministers at one point of time or the other besides two former Prime Ministers. The corresponding figures in the Twelfth and Eleventh Lok Sabhas were 86 and 76, respectively. The number of members who were Ministers in the States is 84. These apart, there is one former Governor, 17 former Chief Ministers, 3 former Speakers and 2 former Deputy Speakers of Lok Sabha, and 9 former Speakers and 7 former Deputy Speakers of State Legislative Assemblies.

Table 8

MINISTERIAL POSITIONS OR OTHER PARLIAMENTARY / PUBLIC OFFICES HELD BY MEMBERS OF THE THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA

Office/Position	No.
Prime Minister	2
Speaker (Lok Sabha)	3
Leader of the House (Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha)	3
Union Cabinet Minister	36
Leader of Opposition (Rajya Sabha/Lok Sabha)	3
Governor	1
Chief Minister	17
Deputy Speaker (Lok Sabha)	2
Union Minister of State	45
Union Deputy Minister	6
Speaker (Assembly)	9
Minister in the State	84
Leader of Opposition (State Legislature)	14
Chief Whip (Parliament	11
Deputy Speaker (Assembly)	7
Chief Whip (State Legislature)	7
Mayor	9
Deputy Mayor	1
Vice-Chairman/Vice-President*	4
Municipal Councillor	16
Local Bodies**	69

* (Panchayat Samiti/Taluk Development Board)

** Chairman/President/Sarpanch, Municipal Body/Municipal Council or Committee or Zilla Parishad/Panchayat Samiti/Gram Panchayat

Marital Status

The overwhelming majority of the members in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha are married. Out of 540 member who responded, 524 are married, constituting 97.03 per cent as compared to 95.7 per cent in the Twelfth Lok Sabha. In comparison to 5.55 per cent in the Eleventh Lok Sabha and 4.29 per cent in the Twelfth Lok Sabha, unmarried members

account for 2.97 per cent in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha. Of the 16 unmarried members of the House, 11 are male and 5 are female.

New Members – A Profile

As stated earlier, there are 181 members who have been elected to the Lower House for the first time. Out of 181, only 8 possess experience in the Rajya Sabha, and therefore, 173 members have no previous experience in the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha. Besides, there are 101 (18.60 per cent of the House) members who have no previous experience in Parliament or State Legislatures.

As compared to an average age of 55.5 years of the whole House, the average age of the new members is 52.6. The youngest new entrant is Shri Akhilesh Yadav (26.2 years old) and the oldest Shri Atmaram Maganbhai Patel (81.4 years old who expired on 23 July 2002).

As regards educational attainments of the new entrants, out of 178 members, 7 are Under-Matriculates (3.93 per cent); 24 are Matriculates/ Higher Secondary or Intermediate Certificate holders (13.48 per cent); 3 are Under-Graduates (1.68 per cent); 89 are Graduates (50 per cent); 44 are Post-Graduates (24.71 per cent); and 11 are Ph.D. holders (6.17 per cent). Taken together, members with Graduate degree and above constitute about 80.89 per cent of the 178 new members who responded.

Going by the occupational background, like the whole House, the representation of Agriculturists as a dominant group is visible in the new members' category also. Their number comes to 71 constituting 39.44 per cent of the 180 respondents. There are 31 members with political and social work as their profession (17.22 per cent) and 28 Lawyers (15.55 per cent). Medical Practitioners constitute 2.22 per cent of the new members. Teachers and Educationists constitute fifteen members (8.33 per cent) of the new members while Writers/Journalists as a group have 3 members (1.66 per cent). There are 2 members in the Artists' category (1.11 per cent). Traders and Industrialists have 5 (2.77 per cent) members while Civil/Police & Military Service and Engineers & Technologists are represented by 2 (1.11 per cent) members each. There is one member each (0.55 per cent) from the categories of Sportsmen, Management Consultants and Chartered Accountants. As regards Businessmen, there are 14 (7.77 per cent) members.

Among the new members in the present Lok Sabha, there are two former Union Ministers of State, three former Chief Ministers, two former Speakers of State Legislatures, 28 members who were Ministers in the States at various times, six former Mayors and 23 former Chairmen/Presidents of Zilla Parishads/Panchayat Samitis.

As far as marital status of the first-timers is concerned, only four (2.20 per cent) are unmarried.

Women Members

As regards the representation of women members, it is observed their percentage is the highest in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha. There are as many as 49 women members, including one nominated member as compared to 44 members in the Twelfth Lok Sabha. *Table 9* and *Graph 5* indicate the representation of women members from the First to the Thirteenth Lok Sabha.

Table 9

REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN MEMBERS FROM THE FIRST TO THE THIRTEENTH LOK SABHAS

Lok Sabha	Total No. of Seats	No. of Women Members	Percentage to the total
First	499	22	4.4
Second	500	27	5.4
Third	503	34	6.7
Fourth	523	31	5.9
Fifth	521	22	4.2
Sixth	544	19	3.4
Seventh	544	28	5.1
Eighth	544	44	8.1
Ninth	529	28	5.29
Tenth	509	36	7.07
Eleventh	543	40	7.36
Twelfth	545	44	8.07
Thirteenth	543	49	9.02

A comparative study of the age profiles of women members has been made in *Table 10* by classifying them in eleven different age groups. The assessment from the Seventh Lok Sabha onwards suggests that their average age is 48.7 years as against 55.5 years of the whole House.

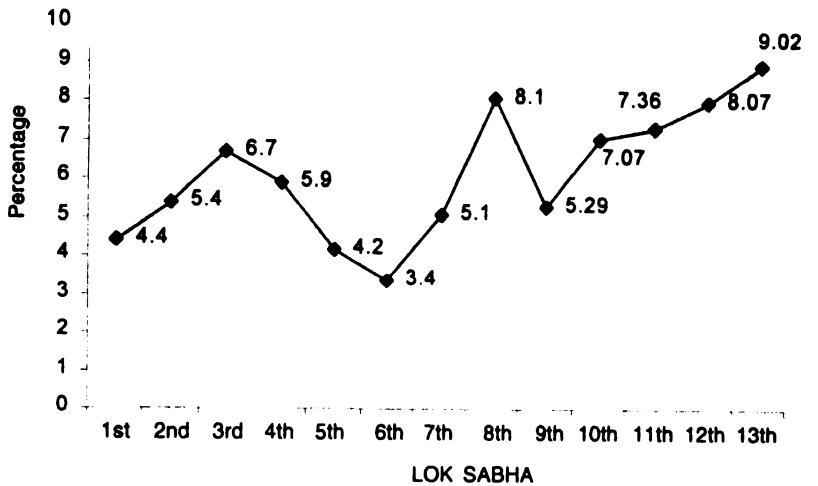
As indicated in Table 10, the Thirteenth Lok Sabha has 12 women members (out of 48 respondents) who belong to the age group of 25-40 years constituting 25 per cent of the women members. A comparative study of the age profile of women members from the Seventh to the Thirteenth Lok Sabha indicates that the Thirteenth Lok Sabha also has the maximum concentration of members in the middle aged group, *i.e.* 41-55 years. The House has no representation of women in the age groups of 71-75 and 76-80.

Table 10

DISTRIBUTION OF WOMEN MEMBERS, BY AGE GROUPS, FROM THE SEVENTH TO THE THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA

Age Group	7th Lok Sabha		8th Lok Sabha		9th Lok Sabha		10th Lok Sabha		11th Lok Sabha		12th Lok Sabha		13th Lok Sabha	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
25-30 years	-	-	1	2.3	1	3.7	4	11.11	-	-	2	4.54	1	2.08
31-35 years	1	3.5	2	4.5	2	7.4	3	8.33	3	8.1	4	9.09	4	8.33
36-40 years	3	10.7	3	6.8	2	7.4	4	11.11	8	21.62	4	9.09	7	14.58
41-45 years	4	14.3	5	11.4	5	18.51	8	22.22	8	21.62	12	27.27	8	16.66
46-50 years	6	21.4	7	15.9	5	18.51	4	11.11	5	13.51	8	18.18	7	14.58
51-55 years	4	14.3	9	20.4	4	14.81	2	5.56	4	10.81	3	6.81	7	14.58
56-60 years	6	21.4	5	11.4	2	7.4	5	13.89	4	10.81	4	9.09	6	12.5
61-65 years	3	10.7	6	13.6	2	7.4	3	8.33	-	-	2	4.54	5	10.41
66-70 years	-	-	5	11.4	1	3.7	1	2.78	2	5.4	3	6.81	3	6.25
71-75 years	1	3.5	1	2.3	3	11.11	2	5.56	2	5.4	1	2.27	0	0
76-80 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2.7	1	2.27	0	0
Total No. of women members who supplied information	28		44		27		36		37		44		48	
Total No. of Seats	544		544		529		509		543		545		543	

Graph 5: **WOMEN MEMBERS, PERCENTAGE-WISE 1ST TO 13TH LOK SABHA**



An analysis of the educational background of women members (*Table 11)* in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha reveals that the number of educated women members is on the rise. Graduates, Post-Graduates and Doctorate degree holders taken together constitute 85.41 per cent of the 48 women members, compared to 83.67 per cent in the Twelfth Lok Sabha. Taking each one as a single category, Graduates account for 29.16 per cent of women members in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha compared to 37.2 per cent in the Twelfth Lok Sabha. In the Eleventh and Tenth Lok Sabhas, they constituted 38.88 per cent and 47.22 per cent, respectively. Post-Graduates account for 45.83 per cent representation, the highest so far, as compared to 39.5 per cent in the Twelfth Lok Sabha. Doctorate and other equivalent high academic degree holders have 10.41 per cent representation as compared to 6.97 per cent in the Twelfth Lok Sabha. Under-Matriculates, Matriculates/Intermediates and Under Graduates taken together account for 14.57 per cent representation in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha.

In *Table 12,* an attempt has been made to show the pattern of distribution of women members from the Seventh Lok Sabha onwards in accordance with their prior occupations. In this field, the general trend so far has been to have the maximum number of women members with political and social work as their major area of interest in contrast to the whole House among whom Agriculturists form the majority. This trend has been maintained in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha also in which the representation of Political and Social Workers is 42.85 per cent. This group had the largest representation in the Eleventh Lok Sabha (48.64

Table 11

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND OF WOMEN MEMBERS FROM THE SEVENTH TO THE THIRTEENTH LOK SABHAS

Educational Level	7th Lok Sabha		8th Lok Sabha		9th Lok Sabha		10th Lok Sabha		11th Lok Sabha		12th Lok Sabha		13th Lok Sabha	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Under-Matriculates	7	25	3	6.8	1	3.7	2	5.56	3	8.33	3	6.97	1	2.08
Matriculates/ Higher Secondary/ Intermediate Certificate Holders	4	14.3	14	31.8	7	25.92	1	2.78	8	22.22	3	6.97	5	10.41
Under-Graduates	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	8.33	—	—	1	2.32	1	2.08
Graduates	9	32.1	14	31.8	10	37.04	17	47.22	14	38.88	16	37.2	14	29.16
Post-Graduates (including technical qualification)	7	25	10	22.7	6	22.22	8	22.22	7	19.44	17	39.5	22	45.83
Doctorate Degree or other high academic qualification holders	1	3.5	3	6.8	3	11.11	5	13.89	4	11.11	3	6.97	5	10.41
Total number of Women members who supplied Information	28		44		27		36		36		43		48	
Total No. of Seats	544		544		529		509		543		545		543	

Graph 6: EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND OF WOMEN MEMBERS FROM 7TH TO 13TH LOK SABHA IN %

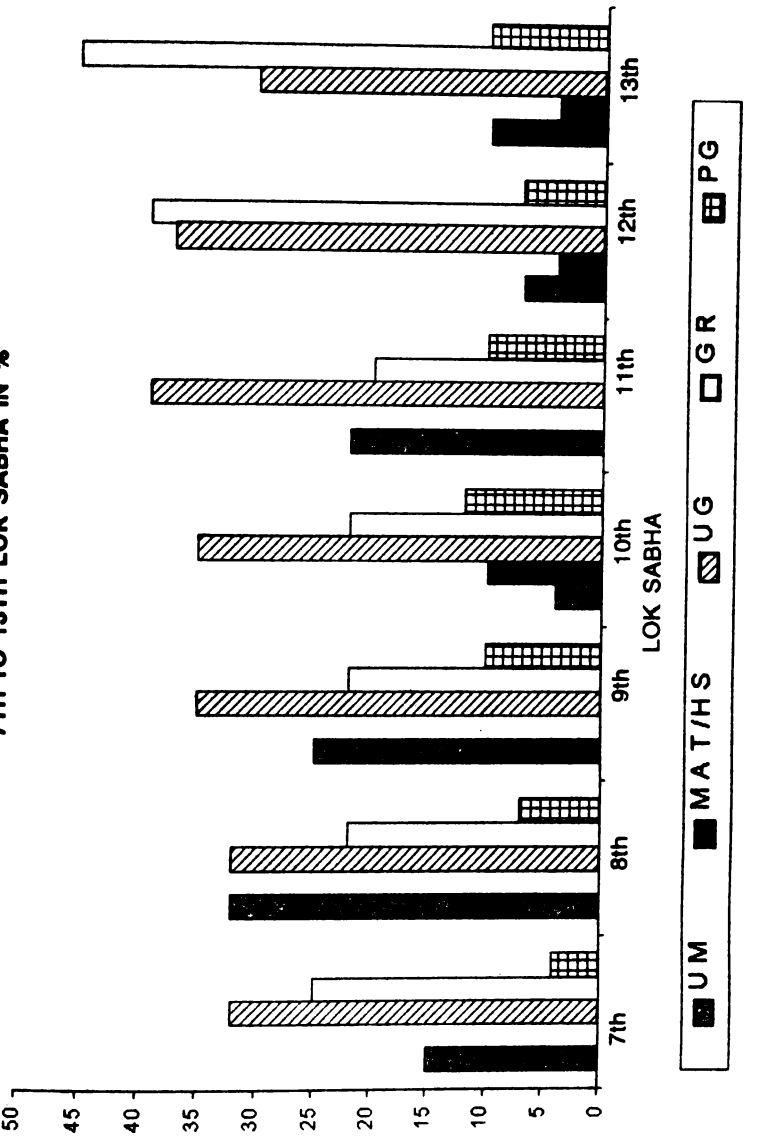


Table 12

DISTRIBUTION OF WOMEN MEMBERS FROM THE SEVENTH TO THE THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA BY PRIOR OCCUPATION

Prior Occupation	7th Lok Sabha		8th Lok Sabha		9th Lok Sabha		10th Lok Sabha		11th Lok Sabha		12th Lok Sabha		13th Lok Sabha	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Agriculturists	11	39.3	14	32.6	3	12	5	13.89	8	21.62	11	25	8	16.32
Artists-Film Artists	-	-	1	2.3	2	8	1	2.78	2	5.4	1	2.27	1	2.04
Business Persons	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2.78	-	-	1	2.27	1	2.04
Civil, Police & Military Service	1	3.5	1	2.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diplomats	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2.7	-	-	-	-
Former Rulers	-	-	1	2.3	-	-	1	2.78	-	-	-	-	-	-
Industrial Workers/ Trade Unionists	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Journalists/Writers	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	-	-	-	4	9.09	1	2.04
Lawyers	-	-	-	-	1	4	2	5.56	2	5.4	2	4.54	4	8.16
Medical Practitioners	-	-	1	2.3	-	-	1	2.78	-	-	2	4.54	3	6.12
Political & Social Workers	13	46.4	15	34.9	11	44	14	38.89	18	48.64	18	40.9	21	42.85
Religious Missionaries	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2.27	1	2.04
Teachers & Educationists	3	10.7	8	18.6	5	20	10	27.78	5	13.51	4	9.09	9	18.36
Traders & Industrialists	-	-	2	4.7	1	4	1	2.78	1	2.7	-	-	-	-
Total number of women members who supplied information	28		43		25		36		37		44		49	
Total No. of seats	544		544		529		509		543		545		543	

per cent). Women members with agriculture as profession, who account for 16.32 per cent representation, occupy the third place and the category of Teachers and Educationists who constitute 18.36 per cent of the respondent women members occupy the second place. This apart, Medical Practitioners have 6.12 per cent representation in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha. There is one woman member each from Artists/ Film Artists, Business Persons, and Religious Missionaries categories.

Previous Legislative Experience: As already mentioned, there are 49 women members constituting 9.02 per cent of the total members of the Lok Sabha. Out of the 49 women members, as many as 19 have been elected to the Lok Sabha for the first time. *Table 13* indicates the position regarding the previous legislative experience of the women members of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha.

Table 13

PREVIOUS LEGISLATIVE EXPERIENCE OF WOMEN MEMBERS OF THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA

Legislative Experience	13th Lok Sabha
Central Legislative Assembly	0
Constituent Assembly	0
Provisional Parliament	0
Lok Sabha*	30
Rajya Sabha	4
State Legislatures	3

* Also includes one member having experience in the Rajya Sabha.

Tables 14 and *15* indicate the position regarding the previous legislative experience of the women members from the Seventh Lok Sabha onwards. *Table 14* mentions previous experience of women members Lok Sabha-wise, from the Seventh Lok Sabha to the Thirteenth Lok Sabha. As shown in the Table, there are 24 women members in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha who were members of the Twelfth Lok Sabha also, while 17 such members have experience of the Eleventh Lok Sabha. The Thirteenth Lok Sabha has four women members who possess previous legislative experience in the Rajya Sabha while 19 women members are new entrants to the Lok Sabha. From *Table 15*, it may be seen that there are 30 women members in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha who have experience of earlier Lok Sabhas while as many as 17 members possess experience of one term in the Lok Sabha as compared to 10 in the Twelfth Lok Sabha.

The women members in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha have among themselves one Union Minister of State, two women members who were Ministers in the State and one former Mayor. There is one woman

Table 14

NUMBER OF WOMEN MEMBERS FROM THE SEVENTH TO THE THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA WHO WERE MEMBERS OF EARLIER HOUSES IN THE LEGISLATURE AT THE CENTRAL STATE LEGISLATURES

Legislatures	7th Lok Sabha	8th Lok Sabha	9th Lok Sabha	10th Lok Sabha	11th Lok Sabha	12th Lok Sabha	13th Lok Sabha
Central Legislative Assembly (1942-46)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Constituent Assembly (1946-50)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Provisional Parliament (1950-52)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
First Lok Sabha (1952-57)	—	1	1	2	—	—	—
Second Lok Sabha (1957-62)	1	—	1	1	1	1	—
Third Lok Sabha (1962-67)	2	2	2	1	1	1	—
Fourth Lok Sabha (1967-70)	4	1	—	2	—	—	—
Fifth Lok Sabha (1971-77)	6	4	3	2	1	1	—
Six Lok Sabha (1977-79)	4	5	1	—	—	—	—
Seventh Lok Sabhas (1980-84)	—	19	7	5	1	2	—
Eighth Lok Sabhas (1984-89)	—	—	11	9	3	4	1
Ninth Lok Sabha (1989-91)	—	—	—	11	7	3	5
Tenth Lok Sabha (1991-96)	—	—	—	—	14	9	9
Eleventh Lok Sabha (1996-97)	—	—	—	—	—	16	17
Twelfth Lok Sabha	—	—	—	—	—	—	24
Rajya Sabha	2	4	3	3	1	5	4
State Legislatures	9	15	8	16	5	5	3

member who has previous experience as Leader of the Opposition at the State level while another member was Chief Whip in Parliament.

Conclusion

The elections to the Lok Sabha, so far thirteen since 1952, are

Table 15

STATEMENT SHOWING PRIOR LEGISLATIVE EXPERIENCE OF WOMEN MEMBERS FROM THE SEVENTH TO THE THIRTEENTH LOK SABHAS BY TERMS OF THE HOUSE

Membership of the Lok Sabha	7th Lok Sabha	8th Lok Sabha	9th Lok Sabha	10th Lok Sabha	11th Lok Sabha	12th Lok Sabha	13th Lok Sabha
All the Twelve Lok Sabha (11 Terms)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eleven Lok Sabhas (11 Terms)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ten Lok Sabhas (10 Terms)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nine Lok Sabhas (9 Terms)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eight Lok Sabhas (8 Terms)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Seven Lok Sabhas (7 Terms)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Six Lok Sabhas (6 Terms)	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Five Lok Sabhas (5 Terms)	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
Four Lok Sabhas (4 Terms)	—	—	—	2	1	—	4
Three Lok Sabhas (3 Terms)	3	2	4	1	—	4	4
Two Lok Sabhas (2 Terms)	2	6	5	5	4	5	5
One Lok Sabha (1 Term)	4	13	4	9	11	10	17
	9	21	13	18	17	21	30
Total women members	28	44	27	36	39	44	49

reflective of the fact that parliamentary democracy has, as represented by members with diverse socio-economic affiliations, struck deep roots in India. Keeping in view this fact, the present study endeavours to analyse the composition of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha on the basis of bio-data of 543 members. Although information in respect of some parameters was not complete, appropriate conclusions have been drawn on the basis of available data with the basic approach being to highlight the major trends about the structural aspects of membership in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha.

The study is an attempt to explore the direction of changes emerging in the composition of the Lok Sabha over successive electoral periods. It highlights the role of political institutions in transformation

which is taking place in the nation as a whole. By using a statistical and comparative methodology, the study makes an overview of the socio-economic profile of membership in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha from available data. It would be seen that data relating to education and occupation is directly relevant to evolve an insightful understanding of the socio-economic content of membership while the other sets of data, *i.e.* age, marital status, etc. give an inkling of the general profile of membership.

Age structure in the legislative bodies denotes participation of citizens representing different age-groups. The Thirteenth Lok Sabha, with the continuing dominance of the middle-aged members (41-55 years), emerges as the 'oldest' House so far. It is interesting to note that the Twelfth Lok Sabha, was the 'youngest' House.

The popularly elected House of Indian Parliament, Lok Sabha, continues to attract educated persons. While in the first Lok Sabha, about 23.2 per cent of members were Under-Matriculates, this figure comes down to 2.81 per cent in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha. There are 80.29 per cent of its members having educational qualifications of the level of Graduation and above. It would be pertinent to add that the Thirteenth Lok Sabha has replaced the Ninth Lok Sabha which was the most educated House so far with 78.24 per cent members having done graduation and above. This is indicative of the trend that more and more educated persons are now coming forward to represent people at the national level.

As regards dominant categories in occupational composition of the Lok Sabha, the Lawyers have gradually been replaced by the Agriculturists. From a position of being the largest professional group in the First Lok Sabha, Lawyers, as a group, were relegated to the third position in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha. Representation of women members, on the other hand, shows different trends. Unlike trends for the whole House, women members belonging to Political and Social Workers' category have outnumbered other categories. Interestingly, Teachers and Educationists have replaced Agriculturists from the second place for the first time and Agriculturists have now reached the third position. It is indicative of the interest being taken by the socially and politically conscious women in the political process of our country.

One of the interesting features of the membership pattern is the record number of members (362) having previous legislative experience in one or more of the thirteen Lok Sabhas. Similarly, the number of members having experience of working in the preceding Lok Sabha, *i.e.* the Twelfth Lok Sabha, reached an all time record of 270.

This study, in a nutshell, establishes that women empowerment has, as a dominant theme in the Indian polity, reflected itself in membership patterns in successive Lok Sabhas. Simultaneously, India, as a country of villages, is being represented more and more by those who belong to rural areas. This is an indication of the transformation which is taking place in the nation.

5

UNVEILING OF THE PORTRAIT OF *SWATANTRYAVEER* VINAYAK DAMODAR SAVARKAR

Swatantryaveer Vinayak Damodar Savarkar was a versatile personality who has been a source of inspiration for generations of Indians. He was a national hero, a symbol of courage, bravery and patriotism. He was a renowned freedom fighter, eminent political thinker, devoted social and religious reformer, committed revolutionary, prolific writer, poet and rationalist philosopher. His love for the Motherland was reflected in all facets of his personality. Savarkar strongly felt that the liberation of the Motherland could be achieved by inculcating the spirit of *Swadeshi* and boycott of foreign goods, imparting national education and creating a revolutionary spirit. Savarkar's fight for national freedom led to his arrest in March 1910. At the young age of 27, he was sentenced to two transportations for life and was imprisoned in Andamans.

Veer Savarkar's vision of India was one in which all citizens would have equal rights and obligations irrespective of caste, creed, race or religion. His outlook was modern, scientific and secular. He worked incessantly for the welfare of the depressed classes and waged a war against casteism and untouchability.

On 26 February 2003, a portrait of *Swatantryaveer* Vinayak Damodar Savarkar was unveiled in the historic Central Hall of Parliament House by the President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. The portrait, painted by Smt. Chandrakala K. Kadam, was donated by the *Swatantryaveer* Savarkar Rashtriya Smarak, Dadar, Mumbai, *Swatantryaveer* Savarkar Seva Kendra, Vile Parle, Mumbai; and the Janakalyany Co-operative Bank.

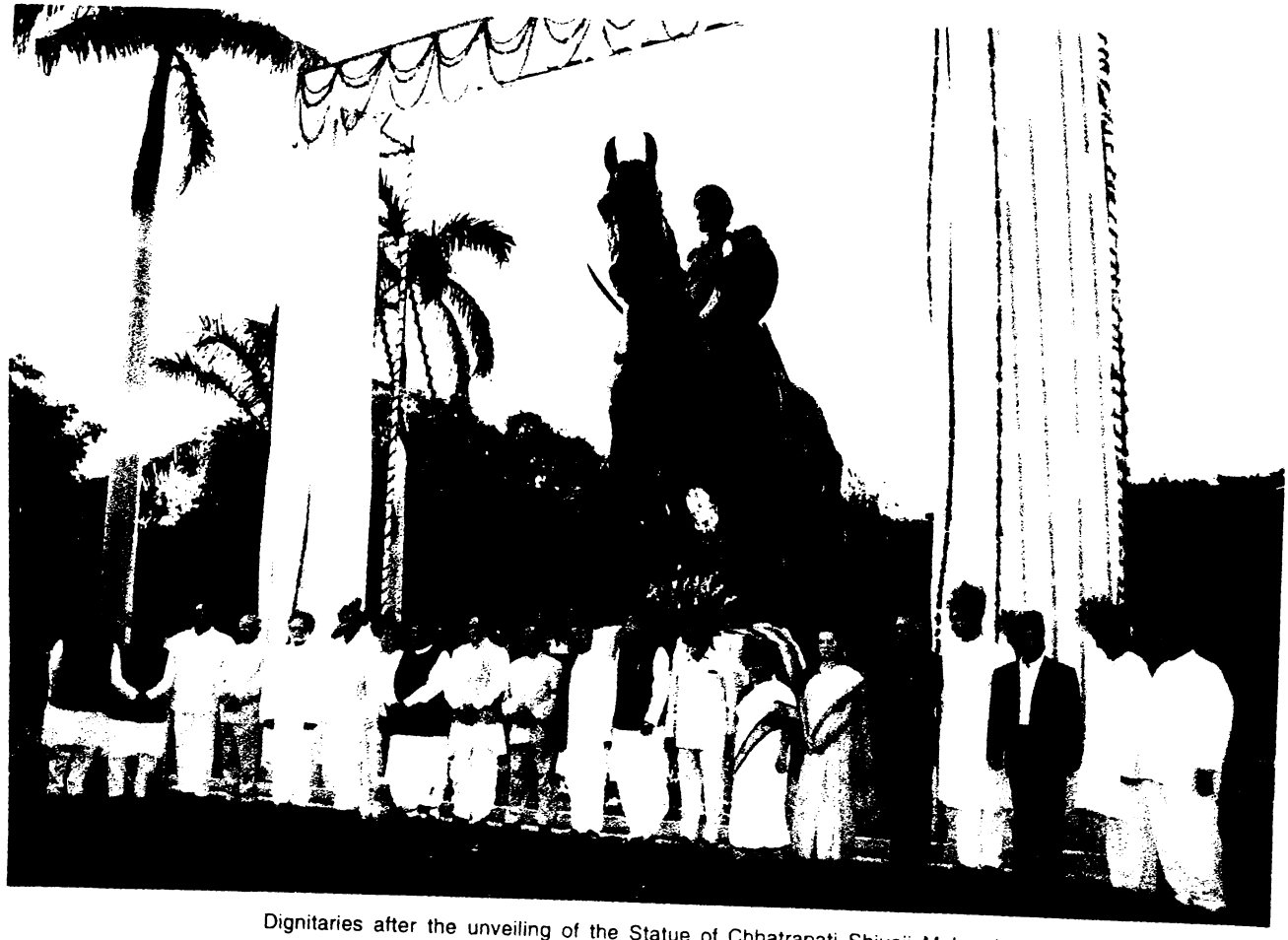
The function was attended, among others, by the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat; the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee; the Deputy Prime Minister, Shri L.K. Advani; the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Manohar Joshi; the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla, members of Parliament; and other dignitaries.

Earlier, the President, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam inaugurated an Exhibition on the Life and Works of *Veer* Savarkar in the Central Hall of the

Parliament, organized by the Parliamentary Museum and Archives (PMA) of the Lok Sabha Secretariat. A booklet containing the profile of *Veer Savarkar,* brought out by the Research and Information Division of the Lok Sabha Secretariat, was also distributed among the dignitaries.

The President, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam unveiling the portrait of *Swatantryaveer* Vinayak Damodar Savarkar in the Central Hall of Parliament House

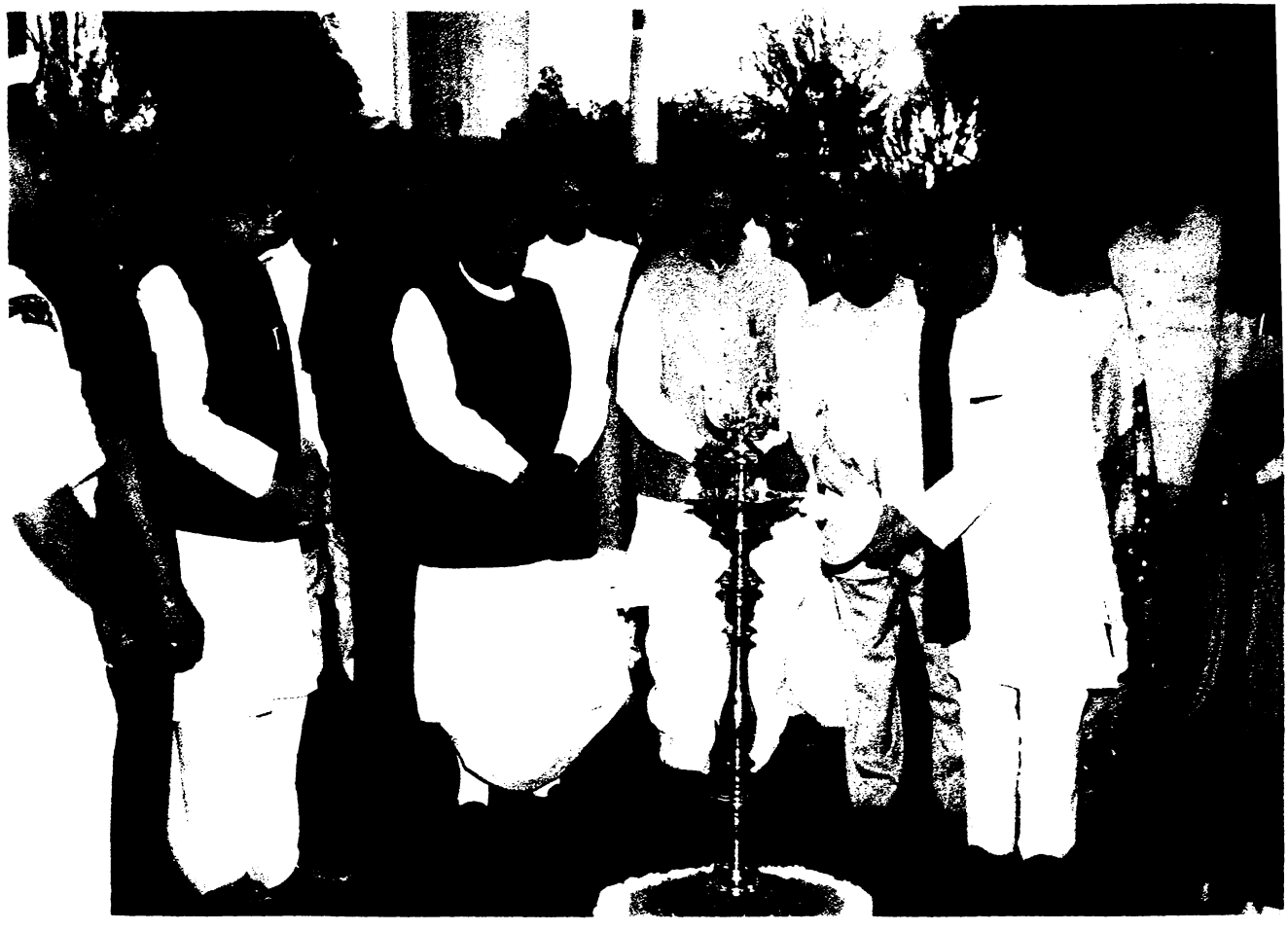
The President, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, inaugurating the Exhibition



Dignitaries after the unveiling of the Statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

Dignitaries after the unveiling of the Statue of Mahatma Basaveshwara

The President, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, inaugurating the Exhibition



The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Manohar Joshi, lighting the lamp on the occasion

6

UNVEILING OF STATUES OF CHHATRAPATI SHIVAJI MAHARAJ AND MAHATMA BASAVESHWARA IN PARLIAMENT COMPLEX

On 28 April 2003, the statues of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Mahatma Basaveshwara were unveiled in the precincts of Parliament House by the President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, a great warrior of the 17th century, was one of the noblest and enlightened rulers in Indian history. He was not only a dynamic, brave and valiant leader, but also possessed the knack of arousing people to fight for the right cause. With his extraordinary drive, genius and vision, he built a powerful Maratha state covering half of Maharashtra with two hundred and eighty forts. He was also a great humanitarian with an innate love for the poor and the oppressed. His *Swaraj* meant freedom to the people of all castes and religions; his was a kingdom of justice, equality, liberty and fraternity.

The horse-riding statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, 18 feet in height and made of bronze, has been sculpted by the well-known sculptor *Padmashri* Ram Sutar. The statue was donated by the Government of Maharashtra.

Mahatma Basaveshwara was a great mystic saint, pragmatic and rationalist philosopher, ardent social reformer and eminent poet and literary figure of Karnataka who lived during the 12th century. An embodiment of great virtues, he preached the message of universal love, kindness and brotherhood, right conduct and devotion to God. He envisaged a self-sufficient, egalitarian and rational society with no discrimination on the basis of caste, creed or sex. He tried to awaken the people to the spirit of self-reliance, self-confidence and free-thinking and was against violence in any form—both in speech and in action.

The horse-riding statue of Mahatma Basaveshwara is made of bronze and has been carved by the well known sculptor Shri Sham Sarang. The statue was donated by Dr. Sharanabasawappa Appa, Mahadasoha Peethadhipati Poojya Sharanabasaveshwar Sansthan, Gulbarga, Karnataka.

The function unveiling the statues was attended, among others, by the Vice-President of India, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat; the Prime

Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee; the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Manohar Joshi; Union Ministers, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde, the Chief Minister of Karnataka, Shri S.M. Krishna, leaders of political parties, members of Parliament, the Minister of State for Kannada and Culture, Government of Karnataka, Smt. Rani Satish and other dignitaries.

Earlier, the President, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam inaugurated two pictorial Exhibitions on the 'Glimpses of the Life and Times' of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Mahatma Basaveshwara. The Exhibitions were set up by the Parliamentary Museum and Archives (PMA) of the Lok Sabha Secretariat in collaboration with the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP).

At the function, the Vice-President, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee released two booklets on Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Mahatma Basaveshwara, respectively carrying the profiles of these leaders along with some photographs. These booklets were compiled by the Research and Information Division of the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

PARLIAMENTARY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

Meeting of the Standing Committee of Commonwealth Speakers and Presiding Officers (CSPOs): A Meeting of the Standing Committee of CSPOs was held in the State of Jersey from 10 to 12 January 2003. The Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.M. Sayeed attended the meeting. Shri P.D.T. Achary, Additional Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was the Secretary to the Delegation.

At the meeting, the following topics were proposed for discussion at the 17th Conference of CSPOs to be held in Bangladesh in 2004:-

- Parliamentary Governance through Committees-Making Committee System more Effective;
- Need for Procedural Reforms in Parliament to Enable Members to take up more Fundamental Issues of the People;
- Time Management in the House-Role of Treasury, Opposition and other Groups in Parliament, especially Legislature Party Leaders;
- Imperative of Institutionalized Arrangements for imparting Orientation Programmes for Members and Training/Refresher Programmes for Parliamentary Officials; and
- Parliament and Political Parties—Need for a New Partnership in Improving the Image of Parliament and Political Parties

International Parliamentary Conference to mark the Golden Jubilee of the Parliament of India: An International Parliamentary Conference was held in New Delhi from 22 to 24 January 2003 as part of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Indian Parliament. The President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam inaugurated the Conference in the Central Hall of Parliament House on 22 January. The Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat; the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee; and the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Manohar Joshi addressed the distinguished gathering*. Over 165

* For text of the above Addresses, *see* Feature, "Addresses at the Inaugural Function of the International Parliamentary Conference to mark the Golden Jubilee of the Parliament of India" in *The Journal of Parliamentary Information*, Vol.XLIX, No.1, March 2003, pp.4-19

delegates from 77 countries, besides members of Parliament and Presiding Officers of State Legislatures in India, attended the Conference.

During the Conference, four Sessions were held to discuss on the themes-'Combating Terrorism'; 'Parliamentary Practices and Procedures: Need for Reforms to Secure Greater Executive Accountability'; 'Parliament as a Vehicle of Social Change'; and 'Parliament in the Era of Globalization and Liberalization'.

Earlier, at the Inaugural Function of the Conference, the following publications brought out by the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariats were released: *Indian Parliamentary Companion: Who's Who of Members of Lok Sabha (First to Thirteenth Lok Sabha); Fifty Years of Lok Sabha; Fifty Years of Rajya Sabha (1952-2002); The Changing Profile of Lok Sabha: A Socio-Economic Study of Members (1952-2002);* and *Parliament of India: A Pictorial Essay.*

During the Conference, an Exhibition on 'Golden Jubilee of the Parliament of India' was held in the Parliament Library Building on 22 January 2003. The Exhibition was inaugurated by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Manohar Joshi.

The three-day Conference concluded on 24 January 2003. Several dignitaries, including Mr. Bob Speller, member of the House of Commons, Canada and Chairman, Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, spoke at the valedictory function and complimented the Indian Parliament for organising the Conference in an excellent manner. The Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.M. Sayeed extended the Vote of Thanks. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Manohar Joshi declared the Conference closed.

Parliamentary Conference on World Trade Organization: A Parliamentary Conference on the World Trade Organisation (WTO) was held at Geneva, Switzerland from 17 to 18 February 2003. The Conference was jointly organized by the IPU Secretariat and the European Parliament.

The Indian Delegation to the Conference was led by Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargav, MP. The other members of the Delegation were Sarvashri Tarlochan Singh Tur, M.A. Kharabela Swain, Balbir K. Punj and Balbir Singh, all members of Parliament. Shri P.K. Grover, Director, Lok Sabha Secretariat was the Secretary to the Delegation.

The Conference was organized to strengthen democracy at the international level and to bring a parliamentary dimension to multilateral cooperation on trade-related matters. The Conference provided parlia-

mentarians an opportunity to examine the main issues arising from the Doha Ministerial Conference and give first hand information to delegates on the subject from the new WTO leadership.

The Conference mainly discussed the following substantive themes and adopted a Declaration at the end of the Conference:- Access to Markets; Development Dimension of the Multilateral Trading System; and Options for a Parliamentary Dimension of the WTO.

CPA Study Group Meeting on Parliament and Media: A CPA Study Group meeting was held in Perth, Australia, from 17 to 21 February 2003 to build on the work of the two Conferences on "Parliament and Media" held earlier in New Delhi (2000) and Cape Town (2002). Dr. Bikram Sarkar, MP, Lok Sabha, represented the India Union Branch. The Group sought to identify ways to improve legislation and parliamentary procedures so that they do not obstruct the free flow of information and inhibit relations between Parliaments and the Media.

The Subjects discussed were briefly as under:

- The Role of the Media as the Fourth Estate;
- Defining Public Interest;
- Access to Parliamentary Information;
- Statutory Constraints on the Media;
- Regulation of the Media

The 66th Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India: The 66th Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India was held at Mumbai on 4 and 5 February 2003. The Speaker, Lok Sabha and Chairman of the Conference, Shri Manohar Joshi presided over the Conference*. The Speaker, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Shri Arunlal Govardhandas Gujarathi was elected as the Co-Chairman of the Conference. The Conference, hosted by the Maharashtra Legislature, was attended by almost all the Presiding Officers of the Legislative Bodies in India.

The Conference discussed the following subjects: 'Changing Dimensions of Zero Hour-How to Make it more Productive?' and 'Parliamentary Privileges and the Publication of Proceedings of the Legislatures by the Media'.

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* For the text of the above Address, *see* Feature, "Addresses at the Inaugural Function of the 66th Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India" at pp. 212

The Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr. Najma Heptulla and the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.M. Sayeed also attended the Conference. Shri P.M. Sayeed initiated the discussion on "Changing Dimensions of Zero-Hour-How to Make it more Productive?" and Dr. Najma Heptulla initiated the discussion on "Parliamentary Privileges and the Publication of Proceedings of the Legislatures by the Media".

Besides, the Report of the Committee of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies to Review the Anti-Defection Law was presented by the Chairman of the Committee, Shri Hashim Abdul Halim, Speaker, West Bengal Legislative Assembly. The Report was considered and adopted at the Conference.

Symposium on "Golden Jubilee of Indian Legislatures-Role of Legislators and Media in Enhancing Good Governance and Development: The Conference of Presiding Officers was followed by a Symposium on "Golden Jubilee of Indian Legislatures—Role of Legislators and Media in Enhancing Good Governance and Development" on 6 February 2003. The Symposium was inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Manohar Joshi presided over the Symposium and delivered the Opening Address. The Chairman, Maharashtra Legislative Council, Prof. N.S. Pharande delivered the Welcome Address. The Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India, members of Parliament from Maharashtra and members of Maharashtra Legislature participated in the Symposium.

The 46th Conference of Secretaries of Legislative Bodies in India: The Conference of the Presiding Officers was preceded by the Forty-sixth Conference of the Secretaries of Legislative Bodies in India on 3 February 2003. The Principal Secretary, Maharashtra Legislature, Shri Vilas Patil delivered the Welcome Address. The Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri G.C. Malhotra and the Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, Dr. Yogendra Narain addressed the Conference. The Secretaries of almost all the State/Union territory Legislatures attended the Conference.

BIRTH ANNIVERSARIES OF NATIONAL LEADERS

On the birth anniversaries of national leaders whose portraits adorn the Central Hall of Parliament House, functions are organised under the auspices of the Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG) to pay tributes to the leaders. Booklets containing profiles of these leaders, prepared by the Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Serv-

ice (LARRDIS) of the Lok Sabha Secretariat are also brought out on the occasion.

The birth anniversaries of the following leaders were celebrated during the period 1 January to 31 March 2003.

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, a function was held on 23 January 2003. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Sri Manohar Joshi, the Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Dr. Manmohan Singh; the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.M. Sayeed; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Netaji.

Lala Lajpat Rai: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai, a function was held on 28 January 2003. Members of Parliament, former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes.

Sarojini Naidu: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Smt. Sarojini Naidu, a function was held on 13 February 2003. The Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Smt. Sushma Swaraj; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes.

Morarji Desai: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Shri Moraji Desai, a function was held on 28 February 2003. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Manohar Joshi; the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.M. Sayeed; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance and Company Affairs, Shri Anandrao Vithoba Adsul; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes.

Dr. Rammanohar Lohia: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr. Rammanohar Lohia, a function was held on 23 March 2003. The Deputy Prime Minister, Shri L.K. Advani; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Labour, Shri Vijay Goel; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes.

First Death Anniversary of Shri G.M.C. Balayogi: On the occasion of the first death anniversary of former Speaker of Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi a function was held on 3 March 2003 at the G.M.C. Balayogi Auditorium in Parliament Library Building to pay floral

tributes to him. The Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee unveiled a portrait of Shri Balayogi at the function. The Deputy Prime Minister, Shri L.K. Advani; the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Manohar Joshi; the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Smt. Sonia Gandhi; the Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Dr. Manmohan Singh; Ministers; and members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes.

EXCHANGE OF PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS

PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS VISITING INDIA

Greece: On our invitation, the President of the Hellenic Parliament, Mr. Apostolos Chr. Kaklamanis visited India from 16 to 20 February 2003. On 17 February 2003, the visiting dignitary called on the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Manohar Joshi. He also had meetings with the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Smt. Sushma Swaraj. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Manohar Joshi hosted a dinner in honour of the visiting dignitary the same day. On 18 February 2003, Mr. Kaklamanis called on the President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

Besides Delhi, he visited Agra and Jaipur.

INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS GOING ABROAD

China: A 12-member Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Manohar Joshi visited China from 6 to 11 January 2003. The other members of the Delegation were Sarvashri R.L. Bhatia, Lal Muni Chaubey, Ramdas Athawale, Abul Hasnat Khan, all members of Parliament, and the Secretary-General Lok Sabha, Shri G.C. Malhotra. Shri A. Louis Martin, Deputy Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was the Secretary to the Delegation.

Zambia: A 7-member Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Manohar Joshi visited Zambia from 11 to 14 February 2003. The other members of the Delegation were Brig. (Retd.) K.P. Singh Deo and Shri Kirti Jha Azad, both members of Parliament and the Secretary-General Lok Sabha, Shri G.C. Malhotra. Shri S.K. Sharma, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was the Secretary to the Delegation.

BUREAU OF PARLIAMENTARY STUDIES AND TRAINING

During the period 1 January to 31 March 2003, the Bureau of

Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST) organised the following Courses/Programmes:

Visit by Delegation from International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance: A delegation led by the Secretary-General, International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IIDEA), Ms. Karen Fogg, called on the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri G.C. Malhotra on 4 March 2003 to discuss parliamentary procedures and training.

Visit by Provincial Political Leaders/High Officials from Sri Lanka: A group of 22 Provincial Political Leaders/High Officials from Sri Lanka visited the Bureau on 13 March 2003 to study the functioning of the Indian Parliament.

Eighteenth International Training Programme in Legislative Drafting: The Eighteenth International Training Programme in Legislative Drafting was organised from 28 November 2002 to 31 January 2003. The Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.M. Sayeed, inaugurated the programme on 2 December 2002. Twenty-one participants from thirteen countries, *viz.* five from Afghanistan; two each from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Fiji and Hungary, and one each from Ghana, Madagascar, Maldives, Nepal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Uganda attended the Programme. Three officers from the Lok Sabha Secretariat, one officer from Rajya Sabha Secretariat and two officers from Jammu and Kashmir Legislature Secretariat also attended the Programme.

The Programme was designed to equip the parliamentary officials with basic concepts, skills and techniques required in drafting legislation so as to enable them to assist the members of Parliament whenever required.

Appreciation Courses: Four Appreciation Courses in Parliamentary Processes and Procedures were organised, covering Probationers of the following seven All India and Central Services: (i) (a) Indian Railway Stores Service; (b) Indian Information Service; (c) Indian Railway Traffic Service; and (d) Indian Ordnance Factories Service (27 to 31 January 2003); (ii) Indian Railway Service of Electrical Engineers (10 to 14 February 2003); (iii) Indian Audit and Accounts Service (24 to 28 February 2003); and (iv) Indian Administrative Service (10 to 13 March 2003)

Training Course for Officials of Lok Sabha Secretariat: A Training

Course for the newly-recruited staff of the Technical Unit, Watch and Ward of the Lok Sabha Secretariat was organised from 3 to 14 February 2003. Thirty-six officials from the Lok Sabha Secretariat and three officials from the Rajya Sabha Secretariat attended the Programme.

Study Visits: Nine study visits were organised during the period for participants from various training/educational institutions.

Instances when members were allowed to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House: On 19 February 2003, during the discussion under Rule 193 regarding threat to international peace due to the mounting tension between USA and Iraq, the Speaker, Lok Sabha allowed Sarvashri Jaochim Baxla and Lakshman Singh, members, to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House.

On 4 March 2003, during the General Discussion on the Budget (Railways), 2003-2004, the Chair, Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey observed that due to paucity of time, members would be allowed to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House. Accordingly, five members laid their written speeches and one member laid his partially read speech on the Table of the House.

On 5 March 2003, during the General Discussion on the Budget (Railways), 2003-2004, the Deputy Speaker, who was in the Chair, permitted members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House. Accordingly, sixty-one members laid their written speeches on the Table of the House.

On 6 March 2003, during the General Discussion on the Budget (Railways), 2003-2004, the Speaker permitted members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House. Accordingly, three members laid their written speeches on the Table of the House.

On 7 March 2003, during the General Discussion on the Budget (General), 2003-2004, the Deputy Speaker, who was in Chair, permitted members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House. Accordingly, one member laid his written speech on the Table of the House.

On 10 March 2003, during the General Discussion on the Budget (General), 2003-2004, the Chair, Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, permitted members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House. Accordingly, thirteen members laid their written speeches and four members laid their partially read speeches on the Table of the House.

On 11 March 2003, during the General Discussion on the Budget (General), 2003-2004, the Speaker permitted members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House. Accordingly, five members laid their written speeches on the Table of the House.

On 13 March 2003, during the discussion under Rule 193 regarding situation arising out of drought and other problems being faced by farmers in the country, the Speaker permitted members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House. Accordingly, six members laid their written speeches on the Table of the House.

Instance when a member was permitted to read his written speech: On 6 March 2003, during the General Discussion on the Budget (General) 2003-2004, the Deputy Speaker, who was in the Chair, permitted Shri Shivraj V. Patil, member, to read his complete written speech.

Government is not bound to lay documents of confidential nature on the Table of the House: On 6 March 2003, as soon as the House met, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, made the following observation:

> "Honourable members may recall that during the Question Hour on 4 March 2003, the issue of alleged remarks of the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh regarding the funds under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme was sought to be raised. On a request being made to me by Kunwar Akhilesh Singh to direct the Government to make a statement in the House on the matter, I had observed that "the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has heard the sentiments of the members... The Parliamentary Affairs Minister may try to get the information on this issue. Whatever information you have, you can give it during 'Zero Hour'.
>
> The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs stated during the 'Zero Hour' that day that she had discussed the matter with the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and that "after obtaining the full facts he will make a statement in the House the next day"
>
> Yesterday, the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister informed the House that he had received a communication from the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh in the matter, and sought a direction from me whether it would be proper to share the information contained therein with the House. On a demand being made by Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi that the communication be laid on the Table of the House, the Honourable Prime Minister and the Honourable former Prime Minister, Shri Chandra Shekhar expressed a view that it would not be proper to lay the said communication on the Table of the House.
>
> I have gone through the communication, a copy of which was made available to me by the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and I am convinced that its contents are sensitive in nature.
>
> I have examined the matter in the light of past precedents. According to *Kaul and Shakdher*, correspondence between the Union and

the State Governments is normally not laid on the Table of the House. It is also well established that the Government is not bound to lay a document on the Table if it considers it to be confidential.

I have, therefore, decided to treat the matter of this nature as closed."

Instance when members whose names were not in the List of Business were allowed to seek clarificatory questions: On 5 March 2003, the Speaker, as a special case, permitted seven members, Sarvashri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, Dharmraj Singh Patel, Sudip Bandyopadhay, Tarit Baran Topdar, Rupchand Pal, Somnath Chatterjee and Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, whose names were not included in the List of Business, to seek clarificatory questions on Calling Attention regarding the situation arising out of the continuous erosion of the banks of Ganga, causing threat to hundreds of villages in Bengal and the steps taken by the Government in regard thereto.

Instance when women members were allowed, on the eve of the International Women's Day, to make submissions on the issue: On 7 March 2003, after the Question Hour, the Speaker observed that on the eve of the International Women's Day, he would allow women members to make submissions on the issue. Accordingly, fifteen women members made submissions.

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PARLIAMENTARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

(1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2003)

Events covered in this Feature are based primarily on reports appearing in the daily newspapers and as such the Lok Sabha Secretariat does not accept any responsibility for their accuracy, authenticity or veracity.

—Editor

INDIA

DEVELOPMENTS AT THE UNION

Budget Session of Parliament: The Budget Session of Parliament commenced on 17 February 2003 with the Address by the President, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam to members of both the Houses assembled together in the Central Hall. The two Houses were adjourned on 13 March 2003 to facilitate the Departmentally-Related Standing Committees of Parliament to examine the Demands for Grants of the Union Ministries/Departments assigned to them and submit their reports to the House. Both the Houses re-assembled on 7 April 2003 and were adjourned *sine die* on 9 May 2003. The two Houses were prorogued by the President on 10 May 2003.

Expansion of Cabinet: On 29 January 2003, the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee effected a reshuffle of the Union Council of Ministers. The Prime Minister inducted two Cabinet Ministers, one Minister of State with Independent Charge and five Ministers of State. The new Ministers and their portfolios are:

Cabinet Ministers: Sarvashri Arun Jaitely: *Law and Justice, Commerce and Industry;* and Dr. C.P. Thakur: *Small Scale Industries, Development of North-Eastern Region.*

Minister of State (Independent Charge): Shri Sangh Priya Gautam: *Agro and Rural Industries.*

Ministers of State: Sarvashri Chhatrapal Singh: *Chemicals and Fertilizers*; Dilip Singh Judev: *Environment and Forests;* Dilip Kumar

Mansukhlal Gandhi: *Shipping;* Smt. Bhavnaben Devrajbhai Chikalia: *Parliamentary Affairs, Tourism and Culture;* and Smt. Jas Kaur Meena: *Human Resource Development.*

Four Cabinet Ministers, Sarvashri Pramod Mahajan, Jana Krishnamurthi, Ved Prakash Goyal and Kumari Uma Bharati; and four Ministers of State, Sarvashri Nikhil Kumar Chaudhary, Raman Kumar Singh, Smt. Vasundhara Raje and Smt. Rita Verma relinquished their office.

The Prime Minister also re-allocated portfolios of some of the Ministers as under:

The Prime Minister relinquished the charge of the office of Minister of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions;

Shri L.K. Advani, Deputy Prime Minister, assumed the charge of the office of Minister of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. He will continue to hold the charge of the office of Minister of Home Affairs.

Shri Arun Shourie relinquished the charge of the offices of Minister of Development of North Eastern Region and Minister of Commerce and Industry and assumed the charge of the office of Minister of Communications and Information Technology. He will continue to hold the charge of the office of Minister of Disinvestment.

Shri Shatrughan Sinha relinquished the charge of the office of Minister of Health and Family Welfare and assumed the charge of the office of Minister of Shipping.

Smt. Sushma Swaraj relinquished the charge of the office of Minister of Information and Broadcasting and assumed the charge of the offices of Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

Shri Kariya Munda relinquished the charge of the office of Minister of Agro and Rural Industries and assumed the charge of the office of Minister of Coal.

Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad relinquished the charge of the offices of Minister of State in the Ministry of Coal and Mines and Minister of State in the Ministry of Law and Justice and assumed the charge of the office of Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Shri Ramesh Bais relinquished the charge of the office of Minister of State in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and assumed the charge of the office of Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Mines.

Shri Tapan Sikdar relinquished the charge of the office of Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers and assumed the charge of the offices of Minister of State in the Ministry of Small Scale Industries and Minister of State in the Department of Development of North Eastern Region.

Shri Subhash Maharia relinquished the charge of the office of Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development and assumed the charge of the office of Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

Shri Chennamaneni Vidyasagar Rao relinquished the charge of the office of Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs and assumed the charge of the office of Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Shri Satyabrata Mookherjee relinquished the charge of the office of Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and assumed the charge of the offices of Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning, Minister of State in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy and Minister of State in the Department of Space.

Dr. Sanjay Paswan relinquished the charge of the office of Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology and assumed the charge of the office of Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Shri Su Thirunavukkarasar relinquished the charge of the office of Minister of State in the Ministry of Shipping and assumed the charge of the office of Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.

Shri Vinod Khanna relinquished the charge of the office of Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism and Culture and assumed the charge of the office of Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs.

Shri Ashok Pradhan relinquished the charge of the office of Minister of State in the Ministry of Labour and assumed the charge of the office of Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Shri U.V. Krishnam Raju relinquished the charge of the office of Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and assumed the charge of the office of Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development.

Dr. Vallabhbhai Ramjibhai Kathiria relinquished the charge of the

office of Minister of State in the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises and assumed the charge of the office of Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Shri Harin Pathak relinquished the charge of the office of Minister of State in the Department of Defence Production and Supplies in the Ministry of Defence and assumed the charge of the office of Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Shri O. Rajagopal relinquished the charge of the offices of Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of State in the Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation and assumed the charge of the office of Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence.

Shri Vijay Goel relinquished the charge of the offices of Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of State in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and assumed the charge of the offices of Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of State in the Ministry of Labour.

Shri Santosh Gangwar relinquished the charge of the office of Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. He will continue to hold the charge of the office of Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

On 1 February 2003, Shri Pon Radhakrishnan assumed charge of the Minister of State for Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation. Earlier, he was the Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports.

Death of Lok Sabha Member: On 3 February 2003, Shri Anand Mohan Biswas, All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) member of Lok Sabha from the Nabadwip constituency of West Bengal passed away.

Death of Constituent Assembly member: On 31 January 2003, Shri Balwant Singh Mehta, a member of the Constituent Assembly, passed away at Udaipur (Rajasthan).

AROUND THE STATES

ANDHRA PRADESH

New Governor: On 3 January 2003, Shri Surjeet Singh Barnala was sworn in as the Governor of Andhra Pradesh.

BIHAR

MLA's election set aside: On 15 March 2003, the Supreme Court

set aside the election of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) MLA, Shri Shahid Ali Khan, from the Sitamarhi Assembly constituency and declared elected the nearest Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate, Shri Hari Shankar Prasad holding that the votes polled in the latter's favour were wrongly rejected by the Returning Officer.

DELHI

Lokayukta sworn in : On 12 March 2003, Justice Mohammed Shamim was sworn in as the *Lokayukta* of Delhi.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

Resignation of Ministers: On 20 January 2003, the Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, Shri Mansa Ram and the Minister of State for Rural Development, Shri Prakash Chaudhary resigned from the State Cabinet. They also resigned from the membership of the BJP and joined the Himachal Vikas Congress (HVC).

Dissolution of the Legislative Assembly: On 29 January 2003, on the recommendation of the State Cabinet, the Governor, Shri Suraj Bhan, dissolved the Legislative Assembly.

Elections to the State Legislative Assembly: In the elections held on 26 February 2003, the Indian National Congress (INC) secured 40 seats in the 68-member State Assembly. The position in respect of the other parties is as under: Elections held: 65; Congress (I):40; BJP:16; Himachal Vikas Congress (HVC):1; Loktantrik Morcha Himachal Pradesh (LMHP):1; Lok Jan Shakti Party (LJSP): 1; and Independents: 6. The elections to the three snow bound constituencies would be held later.

On 4 March 2003, Shri Veerbhadra Singh was unanimously elected as the leader of the Congress (I) Legislature Party.

On 6 March 2003, Shri Veerbhadra Singh was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh. Besides him, 15 Cabinet Ministers also took oath of office. The Ministers are: Sarvashri Sat Mahajan, Chandar Kumar, Rangila Ram, Ram Lal Thakur, Major Vijay Singh Mankotia, Kat Singh Thakur, Brij Bihari Butail, Ram Krishan Gaur, Kuldeep Kumar, Singhi Ram, Harsh Mahajan, G.S. Bali, Smt. Vidya Stokes, Smt. Asha Kumari and Smt. Chandresh Kumari.

Election of the Speaker: On 10 March 2003, Shri Gangu Ram Musafir of the INC was unanimously elected as the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Expansion of Cabinet: On 14 January 2003, Chief Minister Shri Mufti Mohammad Sayeed inducted 19 new Ministers-7 Cabinet Ministers and 12 Ministers of State- into his Council of Ministers.

The Cabinet Ministers are: Sarvashri Abdul Aziz Zargar, Mohammad Sharif Niaz, Madan Lal Sharma, Lal Singh, Hakim Yasin, Nawang Rigzin Jora and Haji Nissar Ali.

The Ministers of State are: Sarvashri Abdul Rahman Veeri, Syed Bashir Ahmed, Abdul Gaffar Sofi, Javed Mustafa Mir, Raman Matoo, Abdul Majid Wani, Puran Singh, Aijaz Ahmed, Gulam Ahmed Mir, Jugal Kishore, Gharu Ram and Yashpal Kundal.

By-election results: In the by-election held on 26 February 2003, Shri Zahoor Ahmad Mir of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) was elected to the State Legislative Assembly from the Pampore constituency.

Elections to the Legislative Council: On 4 March 2003, Chief Minister, Shri Mufti Mohammad Sayeed (PDP) and Shri Ali Mohammad Sofi (INC) were elected to the State Legislative Council from the Kashmir Valley. The Congress-PDP alliance secured 3 seats and the fourth was won by the National Conference from the Jammu region. The other elected members are: Sarvashri Lal Mohmmad Sabir, Amrit Malhotra and Ved Mahajan (PDP-INC combine) and Chaudhary Bashir Ahmed Naaz (NC).

JHARKHAND

New Chief Minister: On 17 January 2003, Chief Minister Shri Babulal Marandi resigned from his post. Later, Shri Arjun Munda was elected as the Leader of the BJP Legislature Party.

On 18 March 2003, Shri Arjun Munda was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Jharkhand.

KARNATAKA

By-election results: In the by-election held on 26 February 2003, Shri Rajashekhar Patil (INC) was elected to the State Legislative Assembly from the Humnabad constituency.

KERALA

MLA's oath declared invalid: On 3 March 2003, the Kerala High Court held that Shri Umesh Challiyal, elected to the State Legislative Assembly from the Kodungallur constituency is not entitled to sit and

vote in the State Assembly till he is duly sworn in, as he had taken the oath not in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. The Court ruled that "the Constitution does not permit a person elected to be a member of the Legislature to vary from the prescribed form of oath".

MAHARASHTRA

New Chief Minister: On 16 January 2003, the Chief Minister, Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh submitted his resignation to the Governor, Shri Mohammed Fazal. Subsequently, the Congress (I) Legislature Party (CLP) unanimously elected Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde as its leader.

On 18 January 2003, Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde was sworn in as the new Chief Minister. Shri Chhagan Bhujbal of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) was sworn in as the Deputy Chief Minister. Along with them, 14 Ministers-5 Cabinet Ministers and 9 Ministers of State-also took oath of office.

The Cabinet Ministers are: Sarvashri Padamsinh Patil, Vijaysinh Mohite-Patil, Madhukarrao Pichad, Dashrath Bhande and Harshvardhan Patil.

The Ministers of State are: Sarvashri Dada Jadhavrao, Ramdas Bodhke, Dharamrao Baba Atram, Ajit Ghorpade, Digambar Bagal, Shivajirao Kardile, Vinayakrao Jadhav, Sanjay Deshmukh and Smt. Sulekha Kumbhare.

On 22 January 2003, the Chief Minister, Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde won a Vote of Confidence in the Legislative Assembly by a voice vote.

On 25 January 2003, the Chief Minister, inducted 53 Ministers-23 Cabinet Ministers and 30 Ministers of State- into his Council of Ministers.

MEGHALAYA

Elections to the State Legislative Assembly: Elections to the State Legislative Assembly were held on 26 February 2003. The party position following the elections is as under: Total seats:60; Indian National Congress (INC):22; Nationalist Congress Party (NCP):14; United Democratic Party (UDP):9; Meghalaya Democratic Party (MDP):4; BJP:2; Hill State People's Democratic Party (HSPDP):2; Khun Hynnywitrep National Awakening Movement (KHNAM):2; and Independents:5.

On 2 March 2003, the Meghalaya Democratic Alliance (MDA)—a

five—party coalition of the INC, UDP, MDP, KHNAM, HSPDP and three of the five Independents-staked claim to form the Government.

On 4 March 2003, the INC led MDA Government with Shri D.D. Lapang (INC) as the Chief Minister was sworn in. Along with him, 28 Cabinet Ministers and 10 Ministers of State also took oath of office.

On 19 March 2003, the Congress led Meghalaya Democratic Alliance won a Vote of Confidence in the State Legislative Assembly by a voice vote.

NAGALAND

Resignation of Minister: On 2 February 2003, the Minister for Excise and Fire Services, Shri B. Phongshak resigned from the Ministry and the INC and joined the Janata Dal (United).

Elections to the Legislative Assembly: Elections to the Legislative Assembly were held on 26 February 2003. The party position following the elections is as under: Total seats:60; INC:21; Naga People's Front (NPF):19; BJP:7; JD(U):3; Nagaland Democratic Movement(NDM):5; Samata Party:1; and Independants:4.

On 4 March 2003, the Democratic Alliance of Nagaland (DAN)-a coalition of Naga People's Front, BJP, the JD(U) and the Samata Party-staked claim to form the Government.

On 5 March 2003, the Governor Shri Shyamal Dutta invited Shri Neiphu Rao to form the Government. Earlier, Shri Neiphiu Rio of the NPF was unanimously elected leader of the Democratic Alliance of Nagaland.

On 6 March 2003, the DAN Government led by Shri Neiphiu Rio (NPF) was sworn in. Along with him, 22 Cabinet Ministers and 6 Ministers of State also took oath of office.

PUNJAB

Expansion of Cabinet: On 10 March 2003, the Chief Minister, Capt. Amarinder Singh inducted 2 Cabinet Ministers and 3 Ministers of State into his Council of Ministers. The Cabinet Ministers are: Sarvashri Harnam Das Johar and Joginder Singh Mann. The Ministers of State are: Sarvashri Darbari Lal, Rajinder Singh Bajwa and Malkiat Singh Birmi.

RAJASTHAN

Expansion of Cabinet: On 25 January 2003, the Chief Minister,

Shri Ashok Gehlot elevated Smt. Kamla Beniwal and Shri Banwari Lal Bairwa to the post of Deputy Chief Ministers. He also inducted Shri Ram Singh Vishnoi as the Cabinet Minister into the Council of Ministers.

TAMIL NADU

By-election results: In the by-election held on 26 February 2003, Shri L.Neelamegavarnam (AIADMK) was elected to the State Legislative Assembly from the Sattankulam constituency.

TRIPURA

Elections to the Legislative Assembly: Elections to the State Legislative Assembly were held on 26 February 2003. The party position following the elections is as under: Total seats:60; Left Front-41; [CPI(M): 38; RSP:2; CPI:1]; INC:13; and Indigenous Nationalist Party of Tripura (INPT):6.

On 7 March 2003, the Left Front Government led by Shri Manik Sarkar of the CPI(M) was sworn in.

UTTARANCHAL

New Governor: On 8 January 2003, Shri Sudarshan Agarwal was sworn in as the Governor of Uttaranchal.

UTTAR PRADESH

Split in Indian National Congress: On 28 January 2003, 7 of the 23 INC MLAs and an unattached MLA formed the Akhil Bharatiya Congress Dal. The Speaker, Shri Keshari Nath Tripathi recognised the group as a separate entity. The MLAs who broke away are: Sarvashri Kameshwar Upadhyaya, Shyam Narain Tiwari, Dinesh Singh, Kazim Ali Khan, Virendra Singh Bundela, Vinod Kumar Yadav, Rajpal Tyagi, and the Unattached MLA Shri Akhilesh Singh. Shri Akhilesh Singh, who was elected to the Assembly on a INC ticket was expelled from the party in September 2002. Cn 12 November 2002, he was declared as Unattached.

On 3 February 2003, the Akhil Bharatiya Congress Dal split with four MLAs forming the Ekta Party which merged with the BSP. They are: Sarvashri Kazim Ali Khan, Kameshwar Upadhyaya, Virendra Singh Bundela and Shyam Narain Tiwari.

Expansion of Cabinet: On 4 February 2003, the Chief Minister, Kumari Mayawati dropped 13 Ministers belonging to the BSP. Later in

the day, she re-inducted four of them along with the four break away Congress MLAs. The four former Congress MLAs, Sarvashri Shyam Narayan Tiwari, Kameshwar Upadhaya, Kazim Ali Khan and Virendra Singh Bundela were sworn in as Ministers of State with Independent Charge.

The BSP Ministers who were reinducted as Ministers of State (Independent Charge) are Sarvashri Ram Achal Rajbhar, Ram Bhual Nishad, Mahendra Singh Jatav and Haji Yaqoob Qureshi.

The Ministers who have been dropped are: Sarvashri Gaya Charan Dinkar (Cabinet Minister); Om Prakash, Abdul Mannan, Sharda Prasad and Anis Ahmad Khan (all Ministers of State with Independent Charge); and Ilam Singh, Ayodhya Prasad Pal, Ram Het and Vinay Shakya (all Ministers of State).

On 11 February 2003, the Chief Minister, Kumari Mayawati inducted the Rashtriya Parivartan Dal (RPD) MLA, Shri Mehboob Ali as a Minister of State (Independent Charge). Earlier, Shri Mehboob Ali had joined the BSP.

On 5 March 2003, the Opposition-sponsored No-Confidence Motion against the Mayawati Government was defeated by voice vote in the Legislative Assembly.

MLAs expelled from the party: On 7 March 2003, the *Apna Dal* Party expelled all its MLAs–Sarvashri Atiq Ahmed, Surendra Patel and Ansar Ahmed–for extending support to the Mayawati Government during the No-Confidence vote in the Legislative Assembly.

DEVELOPMENTS ABROAD

BELIZE

Election results: The Prime Minister, Mr. Said Musa's People's United Party (PUP) won the parliamentary election for the 29-seat House of Representatives (the Lower House of the bicameral Legislature) by securing 22 seats in the elections held on 5 March 2003. The Opposition, United Democratic Party (UDP) won 7 seats.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

New Prime Minister: On 13 February 2003, the President of the Bosnian Federation, Mr. Niko Lozancic nominated Mr. Ahmet Hadizpasic as the new Prime Minister.

BRAZIL

New President and Vice-President sworn in: On 1 January 2003, Mr. Luiz Inacio "Lula" da Silva and Mr. Jose Alencar were sworn in as the President and the Vice-President, respectively, of Brazil.

Election of Senate President: On 1 February 2003, Mr. Jose Sarney was elected President of the Senate (the Upper House of Congress, the bicameral Legislature).

COTE D'IVOIRE

New Prime Minister: On 25 January 2003, President, Mr. Gbagbo appointed Mr. Saydou Diarra as the new Prime Minister.

CUBA

President re-elected: On 6 March 2003, Mr. Fidel Castro was re-elected as the President of Cuba.

CYPRUS

New President: On 16 February 2003, Mr. Tassos Papadopoulus was elected as the President of Cyprus.

CZECH REPUBLIC

New President: On 28 February 2003, Mr. Vaclav Klaus was elected as the President of Czech Republic.

DJIBOUTI

Election results: In the elections held on 10 January 2003 for the 65-seat Chamber of Deputies (the unicameral Legislature), the pro-Government coalition, the Union for a Presidential Majority (UMP), won all the 65 seats, winning 62.7 per cent votes. The Opposition coalition, the Union for a Democratic Alternative (UAD) won 37.3 per cent votes, but failed to win a seat.

New Speaker elected: On 21 January 2003, Mr. Idriss Arnaoud Ali was elected as the Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies.

ECUADOR

New President: On 15 January 2003, Mr. Lucio Gutierrez was sworn in as the President of Ecuador. Mr. Alfredo Palacio was sworn in as the Vice-President.

EL SALVADOR

Election results: In the elections held on 16 March 2003 for the 84-seat Legislative Assembly (the unicameral Legislature), the ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) won 27 seats. The position in respect of the other seats is as under: Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN):31; National Conciliation Party (PCN):16; United Democratic Centre (CDU):5; Christian Democratic Party (PDC):4; and Christian Democratic Party (PDC) / Renewal Movement (MR) / Social Democratic Party (PSD):1.

ESTONIA

Election results: In the elections held on 2 March 2003 for the 101-seat *Riigikogu* (the unicameral Legislature), the Estonian Centre Party (EK) and the Union for the Republic Res Publica (RP) secured 28 seats each. The party position in respect of the other seats is as under: Estonian Reform Party (ER):19; Estonian People's Union (ERL):13; Pro Patria (Fatherland) Union (IML):7 and Moderates (M):6.

FINLAND

Election results: In the elections held on 16 March 2003 for the 200-seat *Eduskunta* (the unicameral Legislature), the Opposition Centre Party (KESK) won 55 seats followed by the Finnish Social Democratic Party (SSDP) with 53 seats. The position in respect of the other seats is as under: National Coalition Party (KOK):40; Left-Wing Alliance (VAS):19; Greens (VIHR):14; Swedish People's Party (SFP):8; Christian Democratic Party (KD):7; Perussomalaiset:3; and others:1.

ISRAEL

Election results: In the elections held on 28 January 2003 for the 120- seat *Knesset* (the unicameral Legislature), Prime Minister Mr. Ariel Sharon's Likud Party won 37 seats. The position in respect of the other seats is as under: Labour/Meimad:19; Shinui (Centre Party):15; Sephardic Torah Guardians (Shas):11; National Union:7; Meretz;6; National Religious Party:5; United Torah Judaism:5; Democratic Front for Peace and Equality (Hadosh):4; One Nation: 4; National Democratic Alliance (Balad):3; Yisrael Ba'aliya:2; and United Arab List:2.

On 28 February 2003, a new coalition Government headed by the Prime Minister and the Likud Party leader, Mr. Ariel Sharon was sworn in. The new coalition comprised the Likud Party, the Shinui (Centre Party), the National Religious Party, and the National Union.

LITHUANIA

New President: On 26 February 2003, Mr. Rolandas Paksas of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) was sworn as the President of Lithuania.

On 6 March 2003, President Mr. Rolandas Paksas approved a new Cabinet submitted by Prime Minister Mr. Algirdas Brazauskas of the Lithuanian Social Democratic Party (LSDP).

MADAGASCAR

Election of Speaker: On 21 January 2003, Mr. Jean Lahiniriako was elected as the Speaker of the National Assembly (the Lower House of the bicameral Legislature).

NAURU

President dead: On 9 March 2003, President Mr. Bernard Dowiyogo died in a US hospital. Mr. Derog Gioura was appointed as the acting President pending legislative elections to be held on 3 May 2003.

NETHERLANDS

Election results: In the elections held on 22 January 2003 for the 150- seat Second Chamber (*Tweede Kamer*-the Lower House of the *Staten-Generaal*, the bicameral Legislature), Prime Minister, Mr. Jan Peter Balkenende's Christian Democratic Appeal (CDA) won 44 seats. The position in respect of the other seats is as under: Labour Party (Prd A):42; People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD):28; Socialist Party (SP): 9; Lijst Pim Fortuyn (LPF): 8; Green Left (GL):8; Democrats 66 (D66):6; Christian Union (CU): 3; and Political Reformed Party (SGP):2.

PAKISTAN

Senate election results: Elections to the 100-seat Senate (the Upper House of the bicameral Federal Legislature) were held on 25 February 2003. Of the 100 seats, 88 were elected by the Legislatures of the four Provinces of Baluchistan, North-West Frontier Province (NWFP), Punjab and Sindh. Additionally, on 27 February, eight seats were due to be elected for the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and four for the Federal Capital, Islamabad. [Information on results for these seats was not available]. The party position in respect of 88 seats is as under: Pakistan Muslim League–Qaid-I-Azam (PML-QA):31; Mutahida-Majlis-I-Amal (MMA):17; Pakistan People's Party-Parliamentarians (PPP-P):11; Mutahida Qaumi Movement (MQM):6;

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N):4; National Alliance:3; Awami National Party:2; Pakistan People's Party-Sherpao (PPP-S):2; Pakhtun Khwa National People's Party (PKMAP):2; Baluchistan National Party (BNM):1; Baluchistan National Party-Awami (BNP-A):1; Baluchistan National Party-Mengal (BNP-M):1; Jamhoori Watan Party (JWP):1; Mutahida Majlis-e-Amal Pakistan (MMAP):1; Pakistan Muslim League-Functional (PML-F):1; and Independents:4.

PALESTINE

Appointment of Prime Minister: On 10 March 2003, the Palestine Legislative Council (PLC) created a new post of Prime Minister by 73 votes to one.

On 19 March 2003, the PLC nominated Mr. Mahmoud Abbas to the post of Prime Minister.

SERBIA MONTENEGRO

New President: On 7 March 2003, the 126-seat Legislature of the newly created State of Serbia and Montenegro elected Mr. Svetozar Marovic as the President.

SOUTH KOREA

New President: On 25 February 2003, Mr. Roh Moo Hyun was sworn in as the President of South Korea.

SWITZERLAND

New President for 2003: On 1 January 2003, the new President, Minister of Economic Affairs, Mr. Pascal Couchepin, took oath of office, succeeding the outgoing President, Mr. Kaspar Villiger. Mr. Ruth Metzler Arnold took over as the Vice-President. The new President is elected annually by the *Bundesversammlung* (Federal Assembly-the bicameral Legislature).

SYRIA

Election results: In the elections held on 2-3 March 2003 for the 250-seat People's Assembly (the unicameral Legislature), the ruling Ba'ath Party and its six allies in the National Progressive Front secured 167 seats. The remaining 83 seats were won by Independents.

New Speaker: On 9 March 2003, the People's Assembly elected Mr. Mohammad Naji al-Itri as the Speaker.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

New President: On 14 February 2003, Mr. Max Richards was elected as the President of Trinidad and Tobago.

TURKEY

New Prime Minister: On 11 March 2003, Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, assumed the office of Prime Minister.

VENEZUELA

New President of the National Assembly: On 7 January 2003, Mr. Francisco Ameliach of the ruling Fifth Republic Movement was elected as the President of the National Assembly (the unicameral Legislature).

10

DOCUMENTS OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND PARLIAMENTARY INTEREST

The need to enact a law on the 'right to information' was recognized unanimously by the Chief Ministers' Conference on "Effective and Responsive Government" held on 24 May 1997 at New Delhi. In its 38th Report relating to the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs recommended that the Government should take measures to enact such a legislation.

In order to make the Government more transparent and accountable to the public, the Government of India appointed a Working Group on Right to Information and Promotion of Open and Transparent Government under the Chairmanship of Shri H.D. Shourie. The Working Group submitted its report in May 1997 along with a draft Freedom of Information Bill to the Government. The Working Group recommended suitable amendments to the Civil Services (Conduct) Rules and the Manual of Departmental Security instructions with a view to bringing them in harmony with the proposed Bill. The draft Bill submitted by the Working Group was subsequently deliberated by the Group of Ministers constituted by the Central Government tc ensure that free flow of information was available to the public, while, *inter alia*, protecting the national interest, sovereignty and integrity of India, and friendly relations with foreign States.

The proposed Bill was in accord with both article 19 of the Constitution and article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

It was felt that free flow of information for the citizens and non-government institutions suffers from several bottlenecks, including the existing legal frame work, lack of infrastructure at the grass root levels and an attitude of secrecy within the Civil Service as a result of the old frame work of rules. The Government proposed to deal with all these aspects in a phased manner so that the Freedom of Information Act become a reality consistent with the objective of having a stable, honest, transparent and efficient Government.

The proposed Bill would enable the citizens to have an access to information on a statutory basis. With a view to further this objective, the proposed Bill specifies that subject to the provisions of the Act, every citizen shall have the right to freedom of information. Obligation is cast upon every public authority to provide information and to maintain all records consistent with its operational requirements duly catalogued, indexed and published at such intervals as may be prescribed by the appropriate Government or the competent authority.

The Freedom of Information Bill, 2000 which sought to achieve the above objects was passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 3 and 16 December 2002, respectively. It received the President's assent on 6 January 2003.

Sub-clause (a) of clause (3) of article 171 of the Constitution provides that as nearly as may be, one-third of the total number of members of the Legislative Council of a State are to be elected by the electorate consisting of members of municipalities, district boards and such other local authorities in the State as the Parliament may by law specify. Section 27 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 provides the procedure for preparation of the electoral rolls for the Council constituencies and also qualifications for the electorate. Sub-section (2) of the said section provides that every member of each such local authority exercising jurisdiction in any place or area within the limits of such local authorities' constituency as specified in relation to a State in the Fourth Schedule to the Representation of the People Act, 1950 shall be entitled to be registered in the electoral roll for that constituency.

The Seventy-third and Seventy-fourth amendments to the Constitution, respectively, had made changes in the structure of the Panchayats and Municipalities. In pursuance of these amendments, the State of Bihar had made changes in its own laws, thus necessitating amendments in the Fourth Schedule to the said act under the heading pertaining to the State of Bihar. Consequently, the entries concerning Municipalities, District Boards and Notified Area Committees did not exist and entries relating to Nagar Parishads, Nagar Panchayats, Nagar Nigams (Corporations) and Gram Panchayats needed to be inserted.

The Representation of the People (Second) Amendment Bill, 2002* which sought to achieve the above objects, was passed by the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha on 16 and 20 December 2002, respectively. It received the President's assent on 6 January 2003.

The family pension in the case of Judges of the High Court is governed by the provisions of sub-section (1) of section 17A of the High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1954. As per the existing provisions of the said Act, there were two rates of family pension: (*i*) family pension at the rate of thirty per cent of the pension admissible to a Judge, who retired after 1 November 1986; and (ii) family pension at the rate of thirty per cent of the salary of a Judge, who retired prior to 1 November 1986. The determination of family pension on the basis of percentage of the pension to one category and on the basis of percentage of the salary to the other category had resulted in an anomaly. The Government had received representations from judges for removing the above anomaly. The Chief Justice of India also requested that appropriate steps may be taken to remove the anomaly. An analogous provision existed in the case of the family pension of the Supreme Court Judges. The Andhra Pradesh High Court, in *O. Chinnappa Reddy Vs. Union of India and others* case had also observed that the said provision needed to be suitably amended so as to rectify the anomalous situation. Accordingly, it was proposed to amend the aforesaid provisions for providing uniform rates of family pension to the judges, irrespective of their date of retirement.

The High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment

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* The Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha as the Representation of the People (Third Amendment) Bill, 2002. The Short title of the Bill was changed by the Lok Sabha through an amendment to clause 1.

Bill, 2002 which sought to achieve the above objectives was passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 29 November and 11 December 2002, respectively. It received the President's assent on 7 January 2003. The Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2002 which also sought to achieve the said objectives, was passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 29 November and 11 December 2002, respectively. It received the President's assent on 7 January 2003.

The issue of "criminalisation of politics" was discussed by the Government with political parties on 13 September 2001 in which a consensus was reached that provisions of sub-section (1) of section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 relating to the commencement of the disqualification period be brought on a par with sub-section (2) and (3) of section 8 of the said Act. Under these provisions, a person gets disqualified from the date of his conviction and continues to be disqualified for a further period of six years since his release. On the other hand, under sub-section (1) of the said act, a person is disqualified for a period of six years only from the date of his conviction. Sometimes, it happens that even a convicted person serving sentence was able to contest elections under this provision. The Government proposed to remove this and other discrepancies in sub-section(1) by amending it so as to distinguish cases where there was only fine on the one hand and cases where a person was imprisoned so that a person would be disqualified for a period of six years from the date of conviction where the punishment was only fine and for the period of imprisonment and further six years since the date of his release where the punishment was imprisonment. This would rationalize the provisions of sub-section (1) of section 8 in accord with provisions of sub-sections (2) and (3) of section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

At present, a person could be disqualified on conviction for an offence under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, covered under sub-section (3) of section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, only if the sentence of imprisonment awarded was for not less than two years. To bring every punishment for an offence under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 within the ambit of disqualification, it was proposed to insert the said Prevention of Corruption Act in sub-section (1) of section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. It was further proposed to bring the Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987 within the purview of sub-section (1) of section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, though the offence under this Act already attracted disqualification under sub-section (2) of section 8.

It was also proposed to add offences under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002 to sub-section (1) of section 8.

The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2002* which sought to achieve the above objects was passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 12 and 16 December 2002, respectively. It received the President's assent on 7 January 2003.

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* The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha as the Representation of the People (Second Amendment) Bill, 2002. The Short title of the Bill was changed by the Lok Sabha through an amendment to clause 1.

As per the provisions of articles 341 and 342 of the Constitution, the lists of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes were notified during the years 1950 and 1951 in respect of various States and Union territories, respectively. A number of requests were received from time to time from the State Governments for removing anomalies in the lists by inclusion of certain tribes or tribal communities, equivalent names or synonyms of certain tribes or communities, removal of area restrictions and bifurcation or clubbing of certain entries, etc., imposition of area restrictions in respect of certain castes in the lists of Scheduled Castes, and exclusion of certain castes and tribes from the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Accordingly, the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were proposed to be modified for 20 States in respect of 140 communities after consultation with the State Governments concerned, the Registrar General of India and the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

The amendments contained in the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Second Amendment) Bill, 2002 broadly fall under the following categories, namely:

(i) the transfer of communities from the list of Scheduled Castes to that of the list of Scheduled Tribes as they had been wrongly included in the list of Scheduled Castes whereas they belong to Scheduled Tribes category; (ii) the inclusion of certain tribes or tribal communities or parts thereof or groups within tribes or tribal communities; (iii) the addition of equivalent names or synonyms in respect of certain tribes in the existing lists; (iv) the exclusion of certain communities from the existing lists; (v) the bifurcation and clubbing of entries in the existing lists, based on their ethnic dissimilarity or similarity; (vi) the removal of area restrictions in respect of certain specific tribes in the existing lists and imposition of area restrictions in respect of certain castes; (vii) the correction in the spellings of certain tribes in the existing lists; and (viii) the change of nomenclature of certain tribes in the existing lists.

The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2002 which sought to achieve the above objects was passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 18 and 19 December 2002, respectively. It received the President's assent on 7 January 2003.

Section 60 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 permits any person with "service qualification" to give his vote by postal ballot. "Service qualification" as defined in sub-section (8) of section 20 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 *inter alia*, includes members of the Armed Forces of the Union and of the forces to which the provisions of the Army Act, 1950 have been made applicable with or without modifications.

The Election Commission of India, keeping in view the fact that with the enactment of the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 1996 the minimum campaign period has been reduced from twenty days to fourteen days and keeping in view the logistic constraints involved in dispatching postal ballots to members of the Armed Forces through their record offices and receiving those ballot papers back before the counting process commences, recommended that the members of the Armed Forces, in order to ensure their full participation in the electoral exercise, may be allowed to vote by proxy instead of postal ballot.

The Government considered the matter and decided to provide an option to the members of the Armed Forces of the Union and of forces to which the provisions of the Army Act, 1950 have been made applicable, whether with or without modifications, to vote either in person or through the system of postal ballot or through the system of proxy, at an election in the manner to be specified in the rules. This required amendments to the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and the Indian Penal Code.

The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1998 introduced in the 12th Lok Sabha seeking to achieve the aforesaid objective lapsed with the dissolution of that House. The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1999 which sought to achieve the above objects was passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 19 and 27 February 2003, respectively. It received the President's assent on 22 March 2003.

We reproduce here the texts of the above Acts.

—Editor

THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT, 2002

An Act to provide for freedom to every citizen to secure access to information under the control of public authorities, consistent with public interest, in order to promote openness, transparency and accountability in administration and in relation to matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Fifty-third Year of the Republic of India as follows:-

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

1. *Short title extent and commencement* : (*1*) This Act may be called the Freedom of Information Act, 2002.

(*2*) It extends to the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

(*3*) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

2. *Definitions* : In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires.

(*a*) "appropriate Government" means in relation to a public authority established, constituted, owned, substantially financed by funds provided directly or indirectly or controlled—

(*i*) by the Central Government, the Central Government;

(*ii*) by the State Government, the State Government;

(*iii*) by the Union territory, the Central Government;

(*b*) "competent authority" means-

(*i*) the Speaker in the case of the House of the People or the Legislative Assembly and the Chairman in the case of the Council of States or the Legislative Council;

(*ii*) the Chief Justice of India in the case of the Supreme Court;

(*iii*) the Chief Justice of the High Court in the case of a High Court;

(*iv*) the President or the Governor, as the case may be, in the case of other authorities created by or under the Constitution;

(*v*) the administrator appointed under article 239 of the Constitution;

(*c*) "freedom of information" means the right to obtain information from any public authority by means of,—

(*i*) inspection, taking of extracts and notes;

(*ii*) certified copies of any records of such public authority;

(*iii*) diskettes, floppies or in any other electronic mode or through print-outs where such information is stored in a computer or in any other device;

(*d*) "information" means any material in any form relating to the administration, operations or decisions of a public authority;

(*e*) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act by the appropriate Government or the competent authority, as the case may be;

(*f*) "public authority" means any authority or body established or constituted,–

(*i*) by or under the Constitution;

(*ii*) by any law made by the appropriate Government,

and includes any other body owned, controlled or substantially financed by funds provided directly or indirectly by the appropriate Government;

(*g*) "Public Information Officer" means the Public Information Officer appointed under sub-section (*1*) of section 5;

(*h*) *"recent" includes*—

(*i*) any document, manuscript and file;

(*ii*) any microfilm, microfiche and facsimile copy of a document;

(*iii*) any reproduction of image or images embodied in such microfilm (whether enlarged or not); and

(*iv*) any other material produced by a computer or by any other device;

(*l*) "third party" means a person other than the person making a request for information and includes a public authority.

CHAPTER II

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND OBLIGATIONS OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

3. *Freedom of information* : Subject to the provisions of this Act, all citizens shall have freedom of information.

4. *Obligations on public authorities*: Every public authority shall—

(*a*) maintain its records, in such manner and form as is consistent with its operational requirements duly catalogued and indexed;

(*b*) publish at such intervals as may be prescribed by the appropriate Government or competent authority,—

(*i*) the particulars of its organisation, functions and duties;

(*ii*) the powers and duties of its officers and employees and the procedure followed by them in the decision making process;

(*iii*) the norms set by the public authority for the discharge of its functions;

(*iv*) rules, regulations, instructions, manuals and other categories of records under its control used by its employees for discharging its functions;

(*v*) the details of facilities available to citizens for obtaining information; and

(*vi*) the name, designation and other particulars of the Public Information Officers.

(*c*) publish all relevant facts concerning important decisions and policies that affect the public while announcing such decisions and policies;

(*d*) give reasons for its decisions, whether administrative or quasi-judicial to those affected by such decisions;

(*e*) before initiating any project, publish or communicate to the public generally or to the persons affected or likely to be affected by the project in particular, the facts available to it or to which it has

reasonable access which in its opinion should be known to them in the best interests of natural justice and promotion of democratic principles.

5. *Appointment of Public Information Officers* : (*1*) Every public authority shall for the purposes of this Act, appoint one or more officers as Public Information Officers.

(*2*) Every Public Information Officer shall deal with requests for information and shall render reasonable assistance to any person seeking such information.

(*3*) The Public Information Officer may seek the assistance of any other officer as he considers necessary for the proper discharge of his duties.

(*4*) Any officer whose assistance has been sought under sub-section (*3*), shall render all assistance to the Public Information Officer seeking his assistance.

6. *Request for obtaining information* : A person desirous of obtaining information shall make a request in writing or through electronic means, to the concerned Public Information Officer specifying the particulars of the information sought by him:

Provided that where such request cannot be made in writing, the Public Information Officer shall render all reasonable assistance to the person making the request orally to reduce it in writing.

7. *Disposal of requests* : (*1*) On receipt of a request under section 6, the Public Information Officer shall, as expeditiously as possible, and in any case within thirty days of the receipt of the request, either provide the information requested on payment of such fee as may be prescribed or reject the request for any of the reasons specified in sections 8 and 9 :

Provided that where the information sought for concerns the life and liberty of a person, the same should be provided within forty-eight hours of the receipt of the request:.

Provided further that where it is decided to provide the information on payment of any further fee representing the cost of providing the information, he shall send an intimation to the person making the request, giving the details of the fees determined by him, requesting him to deposit the fees and the period intervening between the despatch of the said intimation and payment of fees shall be excluded for the purpose of calculating the period of thirty days referred to above.

(*2*) Before taking any decision under sub-section (*1*), the Public

Information Officer shall take into consideration the representation made by a third party under section 11

(*3*) Where a request is rejected under sub-section (*2*), the Public Information Officer shall communicate to the person making request,–

(*i*) the reasons for such rejection;

(*ii*) the period within which an appeal against such rejections may be preferred;

(*iii*) the particulars of the appellate authority.

(*4*) Information shall ordinarily be provided in the form in which it is sought unless it would disproportionately divert the resources of the public authority or would be detrimental to the safety or preservation of the record in question.

8. *Exemption from disclosure of information :* (*1*) Notwithstanding anything hereinbefore contained, the following information not being information relating to any matter referred to in sub-section (*2*), shall be exempted from, disclosure, namely:-

(*a*) information, the disclosure of which would prejudicially affect the sovereignty and integrity of India, security of the State, strategic scientific or economic interest of India or conduct of international relations;

(*b*) information, the disclosure of which would prejudicially affect public safety and order, detection and investigation of an offence or which may lead to an incitement to commit an offence or prejudicially affect fair trial or adjudication of a pending case;

(*c*) information, the disclosure of which would prejudicially affect the conduct of Centre-State relations, including information exchanged in confidence between the Central and State Governments or any of their authorities or agencies;

(*d*) Cabinet papers including records of deliberations of the Council of Ministers, Secretaries and other officers;

(*e*) minutes or records of advice including legal advice, opinions or recommendations made by my officer of a public authority during the decision making process prior to the executive decision or policy formulation;

(*f*) trade, or commercial secrets protected by law or information, the disclosure of which would prejudicially affect the legitimate economic and commercial interests or the competitive position of a public authority; or would cause unfair gain or loss to any person; and

(*g*) information, the disclosure of which may result in the breach of privileges of Parliament or the Legislature of a State, or contravention of a lawful order of a court.

(*2*) Subject to the provisions of clause (*a*) of sub-section (*1*), any information relating to any occurrence, event or matter which has taken place occurred or happened twenty-five years before the date on which any request is made under section 6 shall be provided to any person making a request under that section

Provided that where any question arises as to the date from which the said period of twenty-five years has to be computed, the decision of the Central Government shall be final.

9. *Grounds for refusal to access in certain cases* : Without prejudice to the provisions of section 8, a Public Information Officer may reject a request for information also where such request—

(*a*) is too general in nature or is of such a nature that, having regard to the volume of information required to be retrieved or processed would involve unreasonable diversion of the resources of a public authority or would adversely interfere with the functioning of such authority:

Provided that where such request is rejected on the ground that the request is too general, it would be the duty of the Public Information Officer to render help as far as possible to the person making request to reframe his request in such a manner as may facilitate compliance with it;

(*b*) relates to information that is required by law, rules, regulations or orders to be published at a particular time and such information is likely to be so published within thirty days of the receipt of such request;

(*c*) relates to information that is contained in published material available to public; or

(*d*) relates to information which would cause unwarranted invasion of the privacy of any person.

10. *Severability* : (*1*) If a request for access to information is rejected on the ground that it is in relation to information which is exempted from disclosure, then notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, access may be given to that part of the record which does not obtain any information that is exempted from disclosure under this Act and which can reasonably be severed from any part that contains exempted information.

(*2*) Where access is granted to a part of the record in accordance

with sub-section (*1*), the person making the request shall be informed,—

(*a*) that only part of the record requested, after severance of the record containing information which is exempted from disclosure, is being furnished; and

(*b*) of the provisions of the Act under which the severed part is exempted from disclosure.

11. *Third party information* : (*1*) Where a public authority intends to disclose any information or record, or part thereof, on a request made under this Act which relates to, or has been supplied by a third party and has been treated as confidential by that third party, the Public Information Officer shall, within twenty-five days from the receipt of a request, give written notice to such third party of the request and of the fact that the public authority intends to disclose the information or record, or part thereof:

Provided that except in the case of trade or commercial secrets protected by law, disclosure may be allowed if the public interest in disclosure outweighs in importance any possible harm or injury to the interests of such third party.

(*2*) Where a notice is given by the Public Information Officer under sub-section (*1*) to a third party in respect of any information or record or part thereof, the third party shall, within twenty days from the date of issuance of notice, be given the opportunity to make representation against the proposed disclosure.

(*3*) Notwithstanding anything contained in section 7, the Public Information Officer shall, within sixty days after receipt of the request under section 6, if the third party has been given an opportunity to make representation under sub-section (*2*), make a decision as to whether or not to disclose the information or record or part thereof and give in writing the notice of his decision to the third party.

(*4*) A notice given under sub-section (*3*) shall include a statement that the third party to whom the notice is given is entitled to prefer an appeal against the decision under section 12.

12. *Appeals* : (*1*) Any person aggrieved by a decision of the Public Information Officer may, within thirty days of receipt of such decision, prefer an appeal to such authority as may be prescribed:

Provided that such authority may entertain the appeal after the expiry of the said period of thirty days if it is satisfied that the appellant was prevented by sufficient cause from filing the appeal in time.

(*2*) A second appeal against the decision under sub-section (*1*) shall lie within thirty days of such decision, to the Central Government or the State Government or the competent authority, as the case may be:

Provided that the Central Government or the State Government or the competent authority, as the case may be, may entertain the appeal after the expiry of the said period of thirty days if it is satisfied that the appellant was prevented by sufficient cause from filing the appeal in time.

(*3*) The appeals referred to in sub-sections (*1*) and (*2*) shall be disposed of within third days of the receipt of such appeals or within such extended period, as the case may be, for reasons to be recorded in writing.

(*4*) If the decision of the Public Information Officer against which the appeal is preferred under sub-section (*1*) or sub-section (*2*) also relates to information of third party, the appellate authority shall give a reasonable opportunity of being heard to that party.

CHAPTER III

MISCELLANEOUS

13. *Protection of action taken in good faith :* No suit prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against any person for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act or any rule made thereunder.

14. *Act to have overriding effect* : The provisions of this Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in the Official Secrets Act, 1923, and any other law for the time being in force or in any instrument having effect by virtue of any law other than this Act.

15. *Bar of jurisdiction of courts* : No court shall entertain any suit, application or other proceeding in respect of any order made under this Act and no such order shall be called in question otherwise than by way of an appeal under this Act.

16. *Act not to apply to certain organisations* : (*1*) Nothing contained in this Act shall apply to the intelligence and security organisations specified in the Schedule, being organisations established by the Central Government or any information furnished by such organisations to that Government.

(*2*) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official

Gazette, amend the Schedule by including therein any other intelligence or security organisation established by that Government or omitting therefrom any organisation already specified therein and on the publication of such notification. Such organisation shall be deemed to be included in or, as the case may be, omitted from the Schedule.

(*3*) Every notification issued under sub-section (*2*) shall be laid before each House of Parliament.

(*4*) Nothing contained in this Act shall apply to such intelligence and security organisations which may be specified, by a notification in the Official Gazette, by a State Government from time to time.

(*5*) Every notification issued under sub-section (*4*) shall be laid before the State Legislature.

17. *Power to make rules by Central Government* : (*1*) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules to carry out the provisions of this Act.

(*2*) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—

(*a*) intervals at which matters referred to in sub-clauses (*i*) to (*vi*) of clause (*b*) of section 4 shall be published:

(*b*) the fee payable under sub-section (*1*) of section 7;

(*c*) the authority before whom an appeal may be preferred under sub-section (*1*) of section 12;

(*d*) any other manner which is required to be, or may be, prescribed.

18. *Power to make rules by State Government* : (*1*) The Slate Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules to carry out the provisions of this Act.

(*2*) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—

(*a*) the fee payable under sub-section (*1*) of section 7;

(*b*) the authority before whom an appeal may be preferred under sub-section (*1*) of section 12;

(*c*) any other matter which is required to be, or may be, prescribed;

Provided that initially the rules shall be made by the Central Government by notification in the Official Gazette.

19. *Rule making power by competent authority* : (*1*) The Competent authority may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules to carry out the provisions of this Act.

(*2*) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—

(*a*) the fee payable under sub-section (*1*) of section 7;

(*b*) the authority before whom an appeal may be preferred under sub-section (*1*) of section 12;

(*c*) any other matter which is required to be, or may be, prescribed.

20. *Laying of rules* : (*1*) Every rule made by the Central Government under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive session, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anythings previously done under that rule.

(*2*) Every rule made under this Act by a State Government shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is notified before the State Legislature.

21. *Power to remove difficulties* : (*1*) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government may; by order publish in the Official Gazette, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act as appear to it to be necessary or expedient for removal of the difficulty:

Provided that no such order shall be made after the expiry of a period of two years from the date of commencement of this Act.

(*2*) Every order made under this section shall, as soon as may be after it is made, be laid before each House of Parliament.

The SCHEDULE

(*See* section 16)

INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY ORGANISATIONS ESTABLISHED BY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

1. Intelligence Bureau.
2. Research and Analysis Wing of the Cabinet Secretariat.
3. Directorate of Revenue Intelligence.
4. Central Economic Intelligence Bureau.
5. Directorate of Enforcement.
6. Narcotics Control Bureau.
7. Aviation Research Centre.
8. Special Frontier Force.
9. Border Security Force.
10. Central Reserve Police Force.
11. Indo-Tibetan Border Police.
12. Central Industrial Security Force.
13. National Security Guards.
14. Assam Rifles.
15. Special Service Bureau.
16. Special Branch (CID), Andaman and Nicobar.
17. The Crime Branch-C.I.D.—CB, Dadra and Nagar Haveli.
18. Directorate of Vigilance including Anti-Corruption Branch, National Capital Territory of Delhi.
19. Special Branch, Lakshadweep Police.

THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (SECOND AMENDMENT) ACT 2002

An Act further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

BE it enacted by Parliament in Fifty-third Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. *Short title* : This Act may be called the Representation of the People (Second Amendment) Act, 2002.

2. *Amendment of Fourth Schedule to Act, 43 of 1950* : In the Fourth Schedule to the Representation of the People Act, 1950, for the heading

"BIHAR" and the entries relating thereto, the following shall be substituted, namely:-

BIHAR

1. Nagar Parishads.
2. Cantonment Boards.
3. Nagar Panchayats.
4. Zila Parishads.
5. Panchayat Samitis.
6. Nagar Nigams (Corporations).
7. Gram Panchayats.".

THE HIGH COURT JUDGES (SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) AMENDMENT ACT, 2002

An Act further to amend the High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1954.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Fifty-third Year of the Republic of India as follows:-

1. *Short title and commencement* : (*1*) This Act may be called the High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Act, 2002.

(*2*) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 1st day of January, 1996.

2. *Amendment of section 17A of Act 28 of 1954* : In the High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Services) Act, 1954, in section 17A, in sub-section (*1*)

(*i*) for the words "sixty per cent. of the pension admissible to him", the words "fifty per cent. of his salary" shall be substituted;

(*ii*) for the words "and thereafter at the rate of half of the family pension so admissible", the words "and thereafter at the rate of thirty per cent. of his salary shall be substituted;

(*iii*) before the Explanation, the following proviso shall be inserted, namely:—

"Provided that in no case the amount of family pension calculated under this sub-section shall exceed the pension payable to the Judge under this Act.".

THE SUPREME COURT JUDGES (SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) AMENDMENT ACT, 2002

An Act further to amend the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Fifty-third Year of the Republic of India as follows:-

1. *Short title and commencement :* (*1*) This Act may be called the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Act, 2002.

(*2*) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 1st day of January, 1996.

2. *Amendment of section 16A of Act 41 of 1958* : In the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958, in section 16A, in sub-section (*1*),—

(*i*) in clause (*a*),—

(*A*) for the words "family pension calculated at the rate of sixty per cent. of the pension admissible to him", the words "family pension calculated at the rate of fifty per cent. of his salary" shall be substituted;

(*B*) for the words "and thereafter at the rate of half of the family pension so admissible", the words "and thereafter at the rate of thirty per cent. of his salary" shall be substituted;

(*ii*) in clause (*b*), for the words "family pension shall be thirty per cent. of the pension admissible", the words family pension shall be thirty per cent. of his salary" shall be substituted;

(*iii*) before the *Explanation*, the following proviso shall be inserted, namely:—

"Provided that in no case the amount of family pension calculated under this sub-section shall exceed the pension payable to the Judge under this Act.".

THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2002

An Act further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Fifty-third Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. *Short title :* This Act may be called the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 2002.

2. *Amendment of section 8 of Act 43 of 1951* : In the Representation of the People Act, 1951, in section 8,—

(*a*) in sub-section (*1*),—

(*i*) in clause (*k*), after the word and figures "Act, 1971,", the word "; or" shall be inserted;

(*ii*) after clause (*k*) the following clauses shall be inserted, namely:-

(*l*) the Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987; or

(*m*) the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988; or

(*n*) the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002,";

(*iii*) for the portion beginning with the words "shall be disqualified" and ending with the words "such conviction", the following shall be substituted namely:—

"shall be disqualified, where the convicted person is sentenced to—

(*i*) only fine, for a period of six years from the date of such conviction;

(*ii*) imprisonment, from the date of such conviction and shall continue to be disqualified for a further period of six year since his release";

(*b*) in sub-section (*2*),—

(*i*) in clause (*c*), for the figures and word "1961; or", the figures "1961," shall be substituted;

(*ii*) clause (*d*) shall be omitted.

THE SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES ORDERS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2002

An Act to provide for the inclusion in the lists of Scheduled Tribes, of certain tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within tribes or tribal communities, equivalent names or synonyms of such tribes or communities, removal of area restrictions and bifurcation and clubbing of entries; imposition of area restriction in respect of certain castes in the lists of Scheduled Castes, and the exclusion of certain castes and tribes from the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, in relation to the States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Mizoram, Orissa, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Fifty-third Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. *Short title :* This Act may be called the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Act, 2002.

2. *Definitions :* In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(*a*) "Scheduled Castes Order" means the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, made by the President under article 341 of the Constitution;

(*b*) "Scheduled Tribes Orders" means the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, the Constitution (Uttar Pradesh) Scheduled Tribes Order, 1967 and the Constitution (Sikkim) Scheduled Tribes Order, 1978, made by the President under article 342 of the Constitution.

3. *Amendment of Scheduled Castes Order :* The Scheduled Castes Order is hereby amended in the manner and to the extent specified in the First Schedule.

4. *Amendment of Scheduled Tribes Order :* The Scheduled Tribes Orders are hereby amended in the manner and to the extent specified in the Second Schedule.

THE FIRST SCHEDULE

(*See* section 3)

In the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950,–

(*a*) in PART VIII.—*Kerala,* omit entries 29 and 38;

(*b*) in PART XVIII.–*Uttar Pradesh,*-

(*i*) in entry 1, at the end, insert "(excluding Sonbhadra district)";

(*ii*) in entry 5, at the end, insert "(excluding Sonbhadra district)";

(*iii*) in entry 21, at the end, insert "(excluding Sonbhadra district)";

(*iv*) in entry 25, at the end, insert "(excluding Sonbhadra and Varanasi districts)";

(*v*) in entry 36, at the end, insert "(excluding Mehrajganj, Sidharth Nagar, Basti, Gorakhpur, Deoria, Mau, Azamgarh, Jonpur, Balia, Gazipur, Varanasi, Mirzapur and Sonbhadra districts)";

(*vi*) for entry 46, substitute "46. Kharwar [(excluding Benbansi)

(excluding Deoria, Balia, Gazipur, Varanasi and Sonbhadra districts)]";

(*vii*) in entry 57, at the end, insert "(excluding Sonbhadra and Mirzapur districts)";

(*viii*) in entry 58, at the end, insert "(excluding Sonbhadra district)";

(*ix*) in entry 60, at the end, insert "(excluding Sonbhadra district)";

(*x*) in entry 62, at the end, insert "(excluding Lalitpur district)".

THE SECOND SCHEDULE

(*See* section 4)

(*I*) In the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950,–

(*a*) in PART 1.—*Andhra Pradesh*,—

(*i*) in entry 1, after "Andh", insert ", Sadhu Andh";

(*ii*) in entry 4, omit "Chenchwar";

(*iii*) in entry 5, at the end, insert ", Bodo Gadaba, Gutob Gadaba, Kallayi Gadaba, Parangi Gadaba, Kathera Gadaba, Kapu Gadaba";

(*iv*) in entry 6, at the end, insert ", Koitur";

(*v*) in entry 12, for "Mannervarlu", substitute "Kolawar";

(*vi*) in entry 13, at the end, insert "Kubi";

(*vii*) in entry 16, at the end, insert ", Kuvinga";

(*viii*) in entry 17, omit "Dhulia, Paiko, Putiya";

(*ix*) in entry 18, for "Goud", substitute "Doli Koya, Gutta Koya, Kammara Koya, Musara Koya, Oddi Koya, Pattidi Koya";

(*x*) in entry 29, at the end, insert ", Banjara";

(*xi*) in entry 31, for "Agency tracts", substitute "Scheduled Areas of Vishakhapatnam, Srikakulam, Vijayanagaram, East Godavari and West Godavari districts";

(*xii*) in entry 32, at the end, insert ", Chella Yenadi, Kappala Yenadi, Manchi Yenadi, Reddi Yenadi";

(*xiii*) in entry 33, at the end, insert ", Koracha, Dabba Yerukula, "Kunchapuri Yerukula, Uppu Yerukula";

(*xiv*) after entry 33, insert–

"34. Nakkala, Kurvikaran

35. Dhulia, Paiko; Putiya (in the districts of Vishakhapatnam and Vijayanagaram).";

(*b*) in PART II.—*Assam*,—

(*i*) under the item "In the autonomous districts:-", for entry 11, substitute "11. Karbi", and after entry 14, insert "15. Lalung";

(*ii*) under the item "In the State of Assam excluding the autonomous districts:-", after entry 9, insert—

"10. Dimasa

11. Hajong

12. Singhpho

13. Khampti

14. Garo.";

(*c*) in PART III.–*Bihar*,–

(*i*) in entry 1, at the end, insert ", Agaria";

(*ii*) in entry 16, at the end, insert ", Dhelki Kharia, Dudh Kharia, Hill Kharia";

(*iii*) in entry 19, at the end, insert ", Nagesia";

(iv) in entry 20, at the end, insert ", Mudi-kora";

(*v*) in entry 24, at the end, insert ", Kumarbhag Paharia";

(*vi*) in entry 25, at the end, insert ", Patar";

(*vii*) in entry 26, at the end, insert ", Dhangar (Oraon)" ;

(viii) after entry 30, insert-

"31. Kawar

32. Kol

33. Tharu.";

(*d*) in PART IV.–*Gujarat*,–

(i) in entry 9, at the end, insert ", Dhodi";

(ii) omit entries 15 and 20 ;

(*iii*) in entry 26, after "Siddi" and before the brackets, insert ",Siddi- Badshan";

(*iv*) omit entry 27;

(*e*) in PART V.—*Himachal Pradesh*,—

(*i*) in entry 2, omit "[excluding the territories specified in sub-section (*1*) of section 5 of the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966 (31 of 1966), other than the Lahul and Spiti district]";

(ii) in entry 3, omit "[excluding the territories specified in sub-section (*1*) of section 5 or the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966 (31 of 1966)]";

(*iii*) after entry 8, insert-

"9. Beta, Beda

10. Domba, Gara, Zoba.";

(*f*) in PART VI.—*Karnataka,*—

(*i*) in entry 37, at the end, insert " Medari, Gauriga, Burud";

(*ii*) in entry 41, at the end, insert ", Haranshikari";

(*iii*) after entry 49, insert "50. Siddi (in Uttar Kannada district)";

(g) in PART VII.–*Kerala,*–

(*i*) in entry 2, at the end, insert ", Aranadan";

(*ii*) in entry 4, at the end, insert ", Mala Pulayan, Kurumba Pulayan, Karavazhi Pulayan, Pamba Pulayan";

(*iii*) in entry 6, at the end, insert ", Wayanad Kadar";

(*iv*) omit entry 7; .

(*v*) for entry 10, substitute "10. Kochuvelan";

(*vi*) omit entries 11, 12 and 14 ;

(*vii*) in entry 16, at the end, insert ", Kurichiyan";

(*viii*) in entry 17, at the end, insert ", Mullu Kuruman, Mulla Kuruman, 1 Mala Kuruman" ;

(*ix*) in entry 18, at the end, insert ", Kurumbar, Kurumban";

(*x*) in entry 20, at the end, insert ", Mala Arayan";

(*xi*) in entry 22, at the end, insert ", Malavedan";

(*xii*) for entry 25, substitute "25. Malayan, Nattu Malayan, Konga Malayan (excluding the areas comprising the Kasaragode, Connanore, Wayanad and Kozhikode districts)";

(*xiii*) in entry 27, at the end, insert "(to be spelt in Malayalam script in parenthesis)";

(*xiv*) omit entry 28;

(*xv*) for entries 30, 31 and 32, substitute "30. Palleyan, Palliyan, Palliyar, Paliyan";

(*xvi*) in entry 34, at the end, insert ", Ullatan";

(*xvii*) after entry 35, insert-

"36. Mala Yettuvan (in Kasargode and Kannur districts)

37. Ten Kurumban, Jenu Kurumban

38. Thachanadan, Thachanadan Moopan

39. Cholanaickan

40. Mavilan

41. Kaimpalan

42. Yetta Kuruman

43. Mala Panickar,";

(*h*) in PART VIII.–*Madhya Pradesh,* omit "entries 21, 32 and 39" ;

(*i*) in PART IX.–*Maharashtra,*–

(*i*) omit entry 12;

(*ii*) in entry 18, for "Gond Rajgond" substitute "Gond, Rajgond";

(*iii*) omit entry 45";

(*j*) in PART X.–*Manipur,*–

(*i*) for entry 28, substitute "28. Vaiphei";

(*ii*) after entry 29, insert–

"30. Poumai Naga

31. Tarao

32. Kharam

33. Any Kuki tribes.";

(*k*) in PART XII.–*Orissa,*-

(*i*) in entry 1, at the end, insert ", Bhakta";

(*ii*) in entry 4, at the end, insert ", Bathuri";

(*iii*) in entry 5, at the end, insert "Bhotra, Bhatra, Bhattara, Bhotora, Bhatara";

(*iv*) in entry 8, at the end, insert ", Teli Bhumij, Haladipokhria Bhumij, Haladi Pokharia Bhumija, Desi Bhumij, Desia Bhumij, Tamaria Bhumij";

(*v*) in entry 10, at the end, insert ", Binjhwar";

(*vi*) in entry 13, at the end, insert ", Bonda Paroja, Banda Paroja";

(*vii*) in entry 17, at the end, insert ", Dhuruba, Dhurva";

(*viii*) in entry 18, at the end, insert ", Didai Paroja, Didai";

(*ix*) in entry 19, at the end, insert ", Bodo Gadaba, Gutob Gadaba, Kapu Gadaba, Ollara Gadaba, Parenga Gadaba, Sano Gadaba";

(*x*) in entry 22, at the end, insert "Rajgond, Maria Gond, Dhur Gond";

(*xi*) in entry 28, at the end, insert "Kanwar";

(*xii*) in entry 29, at the end, insert "Berga Kharia, Dhelki Kharia,

Dudh Kharia, Erenga Kharia, Munda Kharia, Oraon Kharia, Khadia, Pahari Kharia";

(*xiii*) in entry 31, at the end, insert "Kondh, Kui, Buda Kondh, Bura Kandha, Desia Kandha, Dungaria Kondh, Kutia Kandha, Kandha Gauda, Muli Kondh, Malua Kondh, Pengo Kandha, Raja Kondh, Raj Khond";

(*xiv*) in entry 32, at the end, insert ", Nagesar, Nagesia";

(*xv*) in entry 38, at the end, insert ", Khaira, Khayara";

(*xvi*) in entry 41, at the end, insert ", Gumba Koya, Koitur Koya, Kamar Koya, Musara Koya";

(*xvii*) in entry 43; at the end, insert ", Nodh, Nodha, Lodh";

(*xviii*) in entry 47, at the end, insert ", Mankria, Mankidi";

(*xix*) in entry 48, at the end, insert ", Matia";

(*xx*) in entry 49, at the end, insert ", Kuda, Koda";

(*xxi*) in entry 50, at the end, insert ", Nagabanshi Munda, Oriya Munda";

(*xxii*) in entry 52, at the end, insert ", Omanatyo, Amanatya";

(*xxiii*) in entry 53, at the end, insert ", Dhangar, Uran";"

(*xxiv*) in entry 55, at the end, insert ", Parja, Bodo Paroja, Barong Jhodia Paroja, Chhelia Paroja, Jhodia Paroja, Konda Paroja, Paraja, Ponga Paroja, Sodia Paroja, Sana Paroja, Solia Paroja";

(*xxv*) in entry 59, at the end, insert "Arsi Saora, Based Saora, Bhima Saora, Bhimma Saora, Chumura Saora, Jara Savar, Jadu Saora, Jati Saora, Juari Saora, Kampu Saora, Kampa Soura, Kapo Saora, Kindal Saora, Kumbi Kancher Saora, Kalapithia Saora, Kirat Saora, Lanjia Saora, Lamba Lanjia Saora, Luara Saora, Luar Saora, Laria Savar, Malia Saora, Malia Saora, Uriya Saora, Raika Saora, Sudda Saora, Sarda Saora, Tankala Saora, Patro Saora, Vesu Saora";

(*xxvi*) in entry 62, at the end, insert", Tharua Bindhani";

(*l*) in PART XIV.—*Tamil Nadu,* in entry 7, for "taluk," substitute "and Ambasamudram taluks";

(*m*) in PART XV.–*Tripura,*–

(*i*) in entry 6, at the end, insert", Bengshel, Dub, Kaipeng, Kalai, Karbong, Lengui, Mussum; Rupini, Sukuchep, Thangchep";

(*ii*) in entry 14, at the end, insert ", Murashing" ;

(*n*) in PART XVI.–West *Bengal,* after entry 38, insert—

"39. Limbu (Subba)

40. Tamang.";

(*o*) in PART XVII.–*Mizoram,* after entry 14, insert "15. Paite";

(*p*) in PART XVIII.–*Arunachal Pradesh,*–

(*i*) in entry 8, at the end, insert ", Idu, Taroan";

(*ii*) after entry 12, insert-

"13. Hrusso

14. Tagin

15. Khamba

16. Adi.";

(*q*) in PART XIX.–*Goa*, after entry 5, insert–

"6. Kunbi

7. Gawda

8. Velip.";

(*r*) in PART XXII.–*Jharkhand,*–

(i) in entry 1, at the end, insert ", Agaria";

(*ii*) in entry 15, at the end, insert ", Dhelki Kharia, Dudh Kharia, Hill Kharia";

(iii) in entry 18, at the end, insert ", Nagesia";

(*iv*) in entry 19, at the end, insert ", Mudi-Kora";

(v) in entry 23, at the end, insert ", Kumarbhag Paharia";

(vi) in entry 24, at the end, insert ", Patar";

(*vii*) in entry 25, at the end, insert ", Dhangar (Oraon)";

(*viii*) after entry 30, insert–

"31. Kawar

32. Kol.".

(*2*) In the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) (Uttar Pradesh) Order, 1967, after entry 5, insert–

"6 Gond, Dhuria, Nayak, Ojha, Pathari, Raj Gond (in the districts of Mehrajganj, Sidharth Nagar, Basti, Gorakhpur, Deoria, Mau, Azamgarh, Jonpur, Balia, Gazipur, Varanasi, Mirzapur and Sonbhadra)

7. Kharwar, Khairwar (in the districts of Deoria, Balia, Ghazipur, Varanasi and Sonbhadra)

8. Saharya (in the district of Lalitpur)

9. Parahiya (in the district of Sonbhadra)
10. Baiga (in the district of Sonbhadra)
11. Pankha, Panika (in the districts of Sonbhadra and Mirzapur)
12. Agariya (in the district of Sonbhadra)
13. Patari (in the district of Sonbhadra)
14. Chero (in the districts of Sonbhadra and Varanasi)
15. Bhuiya, Bhuinya (in the district of Sonbhadra).".

(*3*) In the Constitution (Sikkim) Scheduled Tribes Order, 1978, after entry 2, insert–

"3. Limboo
4. Tamang.".

THE ELECTION LAWS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2003

An Act further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951 *and the Indian Penal Code.*

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Fifty-fourth Year of the Republic of India as follows:-

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

1. *Short title and commencement* : (*1*) This Act may be called the Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2003.

(*2*) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

CHAPTER II

AMENDMENT TO THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT, 1951

2. *Amendment of section 59* : In the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (hereafter in this Chapter referred to as the principal Act), in section 59, for the words ", and no votes shall be received by proxy", the words "and, save as expressly provided by this Act, no votes shall be received by proxy" shall be substituted.

3. *Substitution of new section for section 60* : For section 60 of the principal Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely:–

"60. Without prejudice to the generality of the provisions contained in section 59, provision may be made, by rules made under this Act, for enabling—

(*a*) any of the persons as is referred to in clause (*a*) or clause (*b*) of sub-section (8) of section 20 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 (hereafter in this section referred to as the 1950-Act) to give his vote either in person or by postal ballot or by proxy, and not in any other manner, at an election in a constituency where poll is taken;

(*b*) any of the following persons to give his vote either in person or by postal ballot, and not in any other manner, at an election in a constituency where a poll is taken,namely:-

(i) any person as is referred to in clause (*c*) or clause (*d*) of sub-section (*8*) of section 20 of the 1950-Act;

(*ii*) the wife of any such person to whom the provisions of sub-section (*3*) of section 20 of the 1950-Act apply and such wife being ordinarily residing with that person in terms of sub-section (*6*) of that section;

(*c*) any person belonging to a class of persons notified by the Election Commission in consultation with the Government to give his vote by postal ballot and not in any other manner, at an election in a constituency where a poll is taken subject to the fulfilment of such requirements as may be specified in those rules;

(*d*) any person subjected to preventive detention under any law for the time being in force to give his vote by postal ballot, and not in any other manner, at an election in a constituency where a poll is taken, subject to the fulfilment of such requirements as may be specified in those rules.".

4. *Amendment of section 62* : In section 62 of the principal Act, after sub-section (5), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:-

"(*6*) Nothing contained in sub-sections (*3*) and (*4*) shall apply to a person who has been authorised to vote as proxy for an elector under this Act in so far as he votes as a proxy for such elector.".

CHAPTER III

Amendment to me Indian Penal Code

5. *Amendment of section 171D* : In section 171D of the Indian Penal Code, the following proviso shall be inserted at the end, namely:-

"Provided that nothing in this section shall apply to a person who has been authorised to vote as proxy for an elector under any law for the time being in force in so far as he votes as a proxy for such elector.".

11

SESSIONAL REVIEW

THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA

TWELFTH SESSION

The Twelfth Session of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha, which commenced on 17 February 2003, was adjourned on 13 March till 7 April to enable the Departmentally-related Standing Committees of Parliament to examine the Demands for Grants of the Ministries/Departments assigned to them and report back to the House. The Session was adjourned *sine die* on 9 May. The House was later prorogued on 10 May. A resume of some of the important discussions held and other business transacted during the period 17 February to 13 March* is given below:

A. DISCUSSIONS/STATEMENTS

Railway Budget, 2003-2004: On 26 February 2003, presenting the Railway Budget, 2003-2004, the Minister of Railways, Shri Nitish Kumar gave a review of the performance of the Railways during the year 2001-2002. He stated that the year 2001-2002 ended with a freight loading of 492.5 million tonnes (MT) against the target of 489 MT, fixed in the Revised Estimates for the year. Freight earnings had consequently surpassed the revised target by Rs.235.40 crore. The passenger earnings, however, suffered a set back in the last quarter of the year due to various extraneous factors resulting in a shortfall to the extent of Rs.204 crore against the enhanced revised target of Rs.11,400 crore. The Gross Traffic Receipts for the year were Rs.118 crore higher than that envisaged in the Revised Estimates.

The Minister stated that in the Budget for 2002-2003, the originating revenue earning freight traffic had been estimated at 510 MT. The first ten months of the current fiscal year had exceeded the proportionate target and had been revised upwards to 515 MT in the Revised Estimates for the year. The goods earnings were likely to exceed the

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* Sessional Review covering the rest of the period will be carried in the September 2003 issue of the *JPI* (Vol.XLIX, No.3); complete details regarding Question Hour and Obituary References will also be carried in the said issue.

Budget target of Rs.26,118 crore by Rs.540 crore, whereas passenger earnings were likely to fall short of the budget target of Rs.13,450 crore by Rs.720 crore. The budgetted Gross Traffic Receipts of Rs.41,538 crore had been reduced to Rs.40,867 crore in the Revised Estimates. With sustained monitoring and continued austerity, there was likely to be a reduction of Rs.850 crore in the Ordinary Working Expenses and for which Revised Estimates were placed at Rs.30,310 crore as against Rs.31,160 crore in the Budget Estimates.

The Minister stated that the Indian Railways would be completing 150 years of glorious service to the nation in the current year and expressed gratitude to the customers whose continued support had enabled all round development of the vast network of the Indian Railways, and declared the year 2003-2004 as 'Customer Satisfaction Year'.

In view of the fact that one of the major contributing factors for accidents was human failure, the Minister stated that 20,000 vacancies in safety categories in Group 'D' would be filled up within the next one year. Continuous improvement in safety related training would be effected and training facilities at all Zonal Training Centres, seven Supervisory Training Centres and eight Central Engineering Training Centres were being suitably upgraded. The Minister stated that 3500 constables would be recruited to strengthen the Railway Protection Force and the Railway Protection Special Force in the year 2003-2004 through the Railway Recruitment Board. To further improve the punctuality of passenger services, it was proposed to streamline and strengthen the monitoring mechanism and to introduce a new computerized Coaching Operations Information System (COIS).

The Minister announced that in 2003-2004, the Railways proposed to complete 225 km of new lines, complete over 775 km of gauge conversion and set a target of 340 km for doublings. It was proposed to electrify a total of 375 route kms during the current year. The total capital outlay on the five major plan project heads for 2003-2004 had been kept at Rs.2,716 crore with Rs.1,005 crore on new lines; Rs.703 crore on gauge conversion; Rs.443 crore for doubling; Rs.122 crore for electrification and Rs.443 crore on metropolitan transport projects. The Plan outlay for 2003-2004 had been kept at Rs.10,607 crore. Taking into account the outlay for Rs.2,311 crore on safety related works through the Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF), the total outlay come to Rs.12,918 crore.

Coming to the Budget Estimates for 2003-2004, the Minister stated that the Railways were expecting to carry 540 MT of revenue earnings.

The originating Passenger Traffic was estimated to go up by about 3 per cent, resulting in increase in earnings of 7 per cent over the Revised Estimates of the current year. The other coaching earnings were expected to grow by 7 per cent. Sundry Other Earnings had been estimated at Rs.990 crore. On the basis of these assumptions, the Gross Traffic Receipts (GTR) were estimated at Rs.43,495 crore, Rs.2,628 higher than the Revised Estimates of the current year. Railways' Ordinary Working Expenses had been estimated at Rs.32,460 crore, 7 per cent higher than the Revised Estimates of the current year. The Total Working Expenses would amount to Rs.40,850 crore leading to Net Traffic Receipts of Rs.2,645 crore. Net Miscellaneous Receipts were estimated at Rs.888 crore which also took into account the amount likely to be collected by way of surcharge on passenger fares for being appropriated to the Special Railway Safety Fund. The net Revenue worked out to Rs.3,533 crore.

The combined discussion on the Budget (Railways), 2003-2004; Demands for Grants on Account (Railways), 2003-2004; Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways), 2002-2003; and the Demands for Excess Grants (Railways), 2000-2001 took place on 4, 5 and 6 March 2003.

Initiating the discussion on 4 March 2003, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi of the Indian National Congress alleged that the NDA Government was dealing with the issue of safety in the Railways very carelessly and callously thereby causing disastrous accidents. He felt that the time had come to modernize the entire security forces of the Railways by training them in new methods so as to meet the safety challenges. He also wanted the completion of the Radhikapur-Barsai Junction Project by 2004.

Participating in the discussion* on 5 March 2003, Dr. Raghuvansh

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* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Prahlad Singh Patel, Moinul Hassan Ahamed, Srinivasulu Kalava, Sudip Bandyopadhyay, Chandra Bhushan Singh, Dahyabhai Vallabhbhai Patel, Uttamrao Nathuji Dhikle, Ram Sajeevan, A. Krishnaswamy, K.H. Muniyappa, Prabhunath Singh, Ravindra Kumar Pandey, Bhartruhari Mahtab, Ramdas Athawale, Sontosh Mohan Dev, Girdhari Lal Bhargav, Varkala Radhakrishnan, Virendra Kumar, Vinay Kumar Sorake, Vilas Muttemwar, Prabhat Samantaray, Nepal Chandra Das, Bhaskar Rao Patil, Denzil O. Atkinson, P.S. Gadhavi, Rampal Singh, Suresh Chandel, Kantilal Bhuria, Ramanand Singh, Mahendra Singh Pal, Holkhomang Haokip, Madhab Rajbhangshi, Ram Tahal Choudhary, Dip Gogoi, S. Saiduzzaman, Nawal Kishore Rai, Nand Kumar Singh Chauhan, Praveen Rashtrapal, E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan, Vishnu Dev Sai, Tufani Saroj, Ram Singh Kaswan, Sohan Potai, E. Ponnuswamy, Ramji Lal Suman, Ananta Nayak, Abdul Rashid Shaheen, Vijayendra Pal Singh Badnore, Naresh Kumar Puglia, Prabodh

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Prasad Singh of the Rashtriya Janata Dal said that the number of Railway passengers had decreased. The net profit of 36 per cent of the previous year had gone down to 10.8 per cent and there was a general feeling among the people that this was because of the frequency of accidents.

Shri Chandra Vijay Singh (Akhil Bharatiya Loktantrik Congress) stated that Moradabad earned valuable foreign exchange to the tune of Rs.2,000 crore annually for India and wanted that the Triveni Express should be extended from Allahabad to Bareilly to reach Moradabad. He requested the Minister to introduce an Express train from Agra to Dehradun *via* Aligarh, Chandausi and Moradabad.

Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal (RSP) said that the rail tracks in the country were very old and funds were necessary for their renovation and maintenance. He added that passengers' security should be given top priority and doctors should be provided for long distance trains.

Sardar Simranjit Singh Mann (SAD-SS Mann) wanted that a Railway track should be laid between Amritsar and Ferozepore. By doing so, he felt that the Indian Railways would be laying a ring along the Punjab border with Pakistan. This would be of great military strategic importance to the country from the defence angle.

Shri Amar Roy Pradhan (AIFB) felt that the Northeast Frontier Railway should be electrified to bring about development. He stated that Rs.25 crore, allotted for a new Railway line from New Moinaguri to Jogigappa was too little when the total cost of the project was Rs.733 crore. The new Railway line would be a lifeline for North Bengal, Sikkim and North-eastern States.

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Panda, Ramsinh Rathwa, Punnulal Mohale, V. Vetriselvan, Radha Mohan Singh, Shyam Bihari Misra, E. Ahamed, Parsuram Majhi, Lakshman Chandra Seth, Paban Singh Ghatowar, Maheshwar Singh, Suresh Kodikunnil, Chandra Pratap Singh, Ram Naresh Tripathi, Chintaman Navsha Wanaga, Bhan Singh Bhaura, V.S. Sivakumar, K.P. Singh Deo, S. Ajaya Kumar, Ratilal Kalidas Varma, Namdeo Harbaji Diwathe, Ramchandra Bainda, Rupchand Pal, A.P. Abdullakutty, Jaochim Baxla, Brahmanand Mandal, Sunil Khan, Bal Krishna Chauhan, Ashok Argal, Thawar Chand Gehlot, Bikram Keshari Deo, Shriprakash Jaiswal, A.K.S. Vijayan, Ramesh Chennithala, Kirit Somaiya, M.A. Kharabela Swain, Vijay Kumar Khandelwal, Jaysingrao Gaikwad Patil, Dalpat Singh Paraste, Raghunath Jha, Rajo Singh, Chaudhary Tejveer Singh, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, Dr. Ranjit Kumar Panja, Dr. K. Malaisamy, Dr. Jaswant Singh Yadav, Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey, Dr. Nitish Sengupta, Dr. M. Jagannath, Dr. N. Venkataswamy, Dr. Ram Lakhan Singh, Dr. M.P. Jaiswal, Dr. Ram Chandra Dome, Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria, Dr. C. Krishnan, Dr. (Smt.) Sudha Yadav, Prof. A.K. Premajam, Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, Prof. (Smt.) Kailasho Devi, Smt. Shyama Singh, Smt. Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo, Smt. Abha Mahato, Smt. Minati Sen and Kumari Bhavana Pundlikrao Gawali

Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale (JD-S) wanted that an exclusive train should be introduced between Mumbai and Nasik and more number of wagons should be made available for transportation of agricultural produce and industrial items manufactured in Nasik district.

Dr.(Smt.) V. Saroja (AIADMK) demanded the allocation of Rs.1,000 crore for the completion of the projects namely, Villupuram to Thanjavur mainline, Salem-Cuddalore new railway line, gauge conversion from Cuddalore to Salem and the setting up of a new division at Salem under the Railways decentralization policy.

Replying to the discussion on 6 March 2003, the Minister of Railways, Shri Nitish Kumar stated that the figures available with the Railways showed that the number of passengers travelling by the Rajdhani Express trains had declined whereas there was an increase in the number of passengers travelling by mail/express trains. As far as safety was concerned, he stated that the Government intended to bring out a White Paper covering all aspects in the current session. To prevent any sabotage, and factors leading to derailment, he stated that the Government would introduce continuous track circuiting in the most busy routes, that is A, B and C sub-urban routes, in the current year. The Government would also manufacture such coaches which were quite sensitive. In case of collision, derailment or any kind of accident, the central part of the coach would absorb the entire shock and passengers would remain unaffected. The Government had decided to set up its own Safety Directorate and provide vigilance power to the Traffic Department.

The Minister stated that the Government proposed to expedite the work on a number of projects. These would be completed within a time frame for which additional funds would be required. He added that a number of technological inputs had been introduced in the Railways. High-density network was working almost everywhere, and there was effort to lay more and more rail lines.

Later, all the Demands for Grants on Account (Railways) and all the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) were voted in full. The Appropriation (Railways) Vote on Account Bill, 2003; the Appropriation (Railways) Bill, 2003; and the Appropriation (Railways) No.2 Bill, 2003 were also passed.

The Budget (General), 2003-2004: Presenting the Budget on 28 February 2003, the Minister of Finance and Company Affairs, Shri Jaswant Singh said that the Government addressed five objectives in the current Budget for the citizens and the economic security of the

country. These objectives were poverty eradication, addressing the 'life time concerns' of the citizens covering health, housing, education and employment; infrastructure development; fiscal consolidation through tax reforms and progressive elimination of budgetary drags, including reforms of additional excise duty, introduction of Service Tax and introduction of Value Added Tax (VAT) from 1 April 2003 at the State level; agriculture and related aspects, including irrigation; and enhancing manufacturing sector efficiency, including promotion of exports and further acceleration of the reform process.

Giving the overall economic performance in 2002-2003, the Minister stated that despite the agricultural GDP decline of an estimated 3.1 per cent owing to the large decline in crop output, the country registered a real growth of 4.4 per cent in GDP. The growth rates of industry at 6.1 per cent and services at 7.1 per cent, accelerated very encouragingly, as did exports by a healthy 20.4 per cent. He stated that the country's foreign exchange reserves' build up during the last year had been the highest ever in a single year, with resources crossing $75.5 billion in the third week of February. India was now an exporter of grains to 15 countries, and donor of hard currency aid to a dozen countries, along with rupee aid to another dozen countries. Gross Domestic savings, as a proportion of GDP at market prices, had also improved and stood at around 24 per cent.

Stressing on the imperative of eliminating poverty, the Minister stated that only reforms that resulted in sustained growth and high employment were a durable solution. He announced that the *Antyodaya Anna Yojana* would be expanded from 1 April 2003 to cover an additional 50 lakh families, raising the total coverage to more than a quarter of all those families living Below Poverty Line (BPL) during the year 2003-2004. The Budget would also provide a major thrust to infrastructure, principally to roads, railways, airports and seaports, through innovative funding mechanisms. This comprehensive initiative would cover 48 new road projects at an estimated cost of around Rs.40,000 crore, with a quarter of them being made of cement concrete; National Rail Vikas Yojana projects worth Rs.8,000 crore; renovation/modernization of two airports and two seaports at an estimated cost of Rs.11,000 crore; and establishing two global standard international convention centres at an estimated cost of Rs.1,000 crore.

Coming to agriculture, the Minister said that agriculture was again at the cross roads while it was preparing to diversify and move up the value chain. He said that agriculture needed to respond robustly to the second generation issues such as land degradation and water logging.

Diversification, resonance with market forces and a swift adoption of sunrise technologies were the other needs. To relieve small farmers of the plantation crops like tea, coffee and natural rubber, of problems arising out of price instability in the international markets, the Minister announced a Price Stabilization Fund of Rs.500 crore that would become operational in 2003-2004.

In the current year so far, industry had stimulated an overall growth despite a decline in agriculture. The Minister said that these gains must be consolidated and the economy must build on the robust industrial growth demonstrated in the last few quarters. Stressing the need to promote investment in the industrial sector to improve the debt and equity markets, he said that he was committed to bringing the small investors back to the equity markets by restoring their confidence.

The Minister stated that Information Technology (IT) was India's show piece success story and that India had to not just maintain its momentum of growth, but continuously encourage it. In view of this, it was proposed that the concessions extended to IT under sections 10A and 10B of the Income Tax Act would continue as originally envisaged. Customs duty on specified electronic components for IT industry was being reduced in conformity with India's WTO commitment. For optical fibre cables, used widely for networking to provide bandwidth to the IT community, the customs duty was also being reduced from 25 per cent to 20 per cent.

The Minister announced that disinvestment receipts for the current year were estimated at Rs.3,360 crore. He said that disinvestment was not merely for mobilizing revenues for the Government, it was mainly for unlocking the productive potential of the undertakings, and for reorienting the Government away from business and towards the business of governance. For facilitating the setting up of subsidiaries by foreign banks as well as for inviting investment in private banks, the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) limit in banking companies in the country would be raised from 49 per cent to at least 74 per cent.

Coming to taxes, tax reforms and the book-keeping of the current year, and also for 2003-2004, the Minister gave emphasis on six important aspects. First, the coming year would be historic with the States switching over to Value Added Tax (VAT). Second, it was proposed to make 2003-04 the year when a long-overdue constitutional amendment to integrate services into the tax net in a comprehensive manner was enacted and implemented. This would give a boost to revenues, and help implement VAT. Third, there would be major improvements

in tax administration through greater application of IT, and a discretion-free impersonal system. Fourth, excise duties would be rationalized further. Fifth, the momentum of reducing customs duty was being maintained so as to improve the competitiveness of Indian industry in international markets. And sixth, Government would continue to strive towards fiscal consolidation through expenditure reprioritization and revenue augmentation.

The Minister stated that his proposals on Direct Taxes in the current budget would result in a revenue loss of Rs.2,955 crore while the proposals relating to Indirect Taxes would result in a gain of Rs.3,294 crore. The Revised Estimates for the current fiscal year showed a decrease in expenditure of Rs.6,296 crore as compared to the Budget Estimates. This reduction in overall expenditure had been achieved despite additional expenditures on drought relief, food subsidy and the Delhi Metro Rail Project. He stated that the net tax revenues for the Centre were estimated to be Rs.1,64,177 crore compared to the Budget Estimates of Rs.1,72,965 crore, thereby reflecting a shortfall of Rs.8,788 crore. Non-tax revenues were estimated at Rs.72,759 crore, Rs.619 crore more than the estimated level of Rs.72,140 crore. However disinvestment receipts, at Rs.3,360 crore, were lower than the Budget estimate of Rs.12,000 crore.

In the Budget Estimates for 2003-2004, the total expenditure was estimated at Rs.4,38,795 crore, of which Rs.1,20,974 crore was for Plan and Rs.3,17,821 crore was for non-Plan expenditure. The Minister estimated the total revenue receipts at Rs.2,53,935 crore and the fiscal deficit at Rs.1,53,637 crore which was 5.6 per cent of the estimated GDP.

Expressing the hope that after a year of drought, the economy would respond favourably to the Budget package and demonstrate impressive growth in 2003-2004, the Minister commended the Budget to the House.

The general and combined discussion on the Budget (General) 2003-2004; Demands for Grants on Account (General) 2003-2004; Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) 2002-2003; and the Demands for Excess Grants (General) 2000-2001 took place on 6, 7, 10 and 11 March 2003.

Initiating the discussion on 6 March 2003, Shri Shivraj V. Patil of the Indian National Congress said that a budget was not just a statement of income and expenditure of the Government. It was an instrument of income and social engineering and development. He felt that what the

present Budget proposed to do for alleviating poverty was not enough and satisfactory. He alleged that the Government promised to provide employment to one crore persons every year but had not fulfilled that assurance.

Shri Patil stated that though the foreign exchange reserves had gone up to 75 billion dollars, they were not put to any use. Besides, many projects of the Government were suffering from cost and time overruns, increasing the burden on the exchequer. He felt that the Government could have planned more properly and implemented the plans meticulously to inspire the workers and the people to produce more efficiently.

Participating in the discussion* on 7 March 2003, Kumari Mamata Banerjee of the All India Trinamool Congress welcomed the budget and said that it was a balanced, growth-oriented and welfare-oriented Budget. She, however, requested the Government to control the population explosion, to control infiltration and cross-border terrorism.

Shri Chandra Vijay Singh (Akhil Bharatiya Loktantrik Congress) said that the Budget appeared to be more conducive to urban demands than rural needs. The Budget was distressing because, in India, about 80 per cent of the population depended on agriculture. He requested the Government to make an additional provision for rural roads to expedite the connectivity of rural India with the mainstream.

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh (RJD), on 10 March 2003, said that the Government had increased the prices of fertilizers and diesel and wanted that they should be rolled back. He added that no attention was paid towards removing regional disparity in the Budget proposals and

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* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri V. Dhananjaya Kumar, Prakash Vishwanath Paranjpe, Madhusudan Devram Mistry, Kirit Somaiya, Raghunath Jha, Tilakdhari Prasad Singh, M.A. Kharabela Swain, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Bhartruhari Mahtab, Rupchand Pal, Raghuvir Singh Kaushal, Ramji Lal Suman, Ramesh Chennithala, Radha Mohan Singh, Sunder Lal Tiwari, Nawal Kishore Rai, P.H. Pandian, Ratilal Kalidas Varma, Rajo Singh, Adhi Sankar, H.D. Devegowda, Hasan Khan, Ramanand Singh, Prabhat Kumar Samantaray, Lakshman Chandra Seth, Devendra Prasad Yadav, Mani Shankar Aiyar, Surendra Singh Barwale, P.S. Gadhavi, Prabodh Panda, Maheshwar Singh, Namdeo Harbaji Diwathe, Ram Tahal Choudhary, Manjay Lal, Dharmraj Singh Patel, Subodh Mohite, Madhab Rajbhangshi, Pawan Kumar Bansal, Kishan Singh Sangwan, Joachim Baxla, Prakash Yashwant Ambedkar, Ramchandra Bainda, K. Francis George, Bikram Keshari Deo, N. Janardhana Reddy, Haribhai Chaudhary, Brahmanand Mandal, Shyam Bihari Mishra, A.C. Jos, Varkala Radhakrishnan, Kolur Basavanagoud, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Vinay Kumar Sorake, R.L. Jalappa, Bir Singh Mahato, Dr. K. Malaisamy, Dr. B.B. Ramaiah, Dr. M.V.V.S. Murthi, Dr. A.D.K. Jeyaseelan, Smt. Margaret Alva and Smt. Renu Kumari

requested that Bihar should be given a financial package and the loan provided to the State should be waived off.

Sardar Simranjit Singh Mann (SAD-SS Mann) said that the Budget only pleased the middle class, big industry and business houses but did not address the major issues concerning the common man. He wanted that a nuclear power plant should be provided to Punjab as the State had no natural resources for providing hydro electricity or coal for generating thermal power.

Dr. (Smt.) V. Saroja (AIADMK) said that 270 million people were living below poverty line (BPL) in India in total neglect. She wanted the Minister of Finance to focus his attention on this fact and take concrete steps to reduce the percentage of BPL, at least, to 100 million by 2004.

Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale (JD-Secular) felt that the Budget was anti-farmer, anti-labour, anti-poor and pro-rich. He contended that the population of the Scheduled Tribes in India was 5 crores and therefore 5 per cent of the General Budget should be provided to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Shri P.D. Elangovan (PMK) said that the Budget provided most of the things wanted by the common people for ensuring their socio-economic security. He pointed out that there was an urgent need to increase the forest cover in the country. He added that the benefits of medical advancements and infrastructure should be extended to the poorest of the poor too.

Replying to the discussion on 11 March 2003, the Minister of Finance and Company Affairs, Shri Jaswant Singh said that the current year was an exceptionally difficult year due to the unprecedented drought and continuing terrorism. He stated that tax revenues had been projected to grow by 13 per cent the next year as against the 20 per cent growth estimated in the previous year. On the expenditure front, due care had been taken to ensure that there was no under-funding of any scheme. On poverty eradication, the Minister stated that fifty lakh families below BPL were to be subsidized for health insurance at the rate of Rs.100 per family.

The Minister said that out of a total subsidy bill of Rs.50,000 crore, about Rs.28,000 crore was for food. There were about Rs.12,000 crore to Rs.13,000 crore subsidy on fertilizers and Rs.9,000 crore to Rs.10,000 crore subsidy on petroleum products. These three major components of subsidy were governed by various factors of international pricing. He stated that when price of crude oil went up, inevitably import bill went up, and there was no administered price mechanism. The reason for the

high fertilizer subsidy was that the production cost of some of the units which manufactured urea was high. The Minister assured, however, that the Government was committed to correcting the situation. He stated that the hike in the price of fertilizers was being rolled back. He also clarified that the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund had not been withdrawn.

All the Demands for Grants on Account (General), all the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General), and all the Demands for Excess Grants (General) were voted in full. The Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2003; the Appropriation Bill, 2003; and the Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2002 were passed.

*Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address**: On 17 February 2003, the President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam addressed members of both the Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Central Hall of Parliament. The Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address was moved by Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra of the Bharatiya Janata Party on 24 February 2003. The discussion on the motion took place on 24 and 25 February and 3 March 2003.

Moving the motion, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra said that the Government would be completing nearly five years of its tenure soon. Talking about the achievements of the Government during these years, he stated that the country had a stock of foodgrains to the tune of 5 crore tonnes. In the past, foodgrains were imported from United States on unfavourable terms, but during these five years the godowns were not only full but the country was in a position to export foodgrains to not less than 30 countries. Five crore people were able to get wheat and rice at the rate of Rs.2 and Rs.3 per kg., respectively. Ten million tonnes of foodgrain had been given free of cost to the States for distribution under the 'food for work' programme. He, however, expressed concern that despite sufficient stocks of wheat, there had been starvation deaths in some places.

Prof. Malhotra stated that the country stood first amongst milk producers in the world. Credit cards were issued to 2 crore 42 lakh farmers and loans to the tune of Rs.50,000 crore were given to them during the last few years. Under the Kissan Insurance Scheme, Rs.496 crore were taken from the farmers and a payment of Rs.1,250 crore was made to them. The amount of loans given in the last 3 years for

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* For the text of the Address, *see* Feature, "Address by the President to Parliament", at pp. 192

construction of houses was double the amount which was given during the last fifty years. The country's foreign exchange reserve had increased to $75.3 billion.

Regarding disinvestment, Prof. Malhotra stated that the interests of employees were taken care of in any case of disinvestment. He stated that peaceful elections in Gujarat and Jammu and Kashmir had strengthened democracy. He mentioned that there were allegations that the twin issues of Ayodhya and ban on cow slaughter were being raised before elections. In this regard, he stated that the President in his Address had mentioned that the verdict of the court regarding Ayodhya would be accepted. He added that the nation must unitedly try to solve all the problems regarding the security of the country and Pakistan sponsored cross-border terrorism, and should not oppose the policies of Government just for the sake of opposing the Government.

Seconding the motion, Shri Suresh Prabhu of the Shiv Sena said that the President's Address covered a wide range of issues and addressed some of the deep-rooted problems of the country and international problems that the Government had been able to address in the last few years. He highlighted the achievements of the Government which included, among others, the road project in which India would be able to construct 14,842 kilometres of road during 1999-2007; the development in telecommunications; political stability; and steps taken for the modernisation of the police force and interlinking of rivers. He stated that the Government had successfully brought divergent political views together to govern the country for the common good of the people. It was the first coalition Government to run successfully for five years with so many achievements to its credit.

Participating in the discussion*, the Leader of the Opposition, Smt. Sonia Gandhi said that the NDA Government had failed to combat terrorism effectively. The Government had seriously damaged the secular fabric of the society and its record on probity, accountability and transparency had been abysmal. Certain elements within the BJP and

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* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Kailash Meghwal, Mani Shankar Aiyar, P.H. Pandian, C. Kuppusami, Ramji Lal Suman, Brahmanand Mandal, Praveen Rashtrapal, Virendra Kumar, Puttaswamy Gowda, Prabhunath Singh, E. Ahamed, Shyam Bihari Misra, K.P. Singh Deo, Anantrao Gudhe, Sunder Lal Tiwari, Joachim Baxla, E. Ponnuswamy, Bhartruhari Mahtab, Subodh Roy, Suresh Kodikunnil, Ravi Prakash Verma, Ramdas Athawale, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, Yogi Aditya Nath, Chowdhary Talib Hussain, Dr. M.V.V.S. Murthi, Dr. Nitish Sengupta, Prof. Ramesh Chand Tomar and Smt. Jayashree Banerjee

some allies of the NDA were allowed to get away with the most outrageous and incendiary public pronouncements. She said that Ayodhya meant a place where war was absent, but held that sectarian organisations like the VHP were destroying the very meaning of the sacred place by their belligerent posturing and saber rattling. She stated that it was incumbent on all to wait for and respect the verdict of the Judiciary.

Smt. Gandhi said that the Kissans were the ones who had suffered the most under the BJP-led coalition Government. To improve the welfare of the farmers, she suggested that public investment in the rural infrastructure had to increase, remunerative prices and marketing had to be assured, and farmers must have greater and cheaper access to institutional credit. She said that in 2001, almost eight crore people were affected by natural calamities and losses worth about Rs.12,000 crore occurred. Many States continued to reel under the effects of drought and the worst hit State was Rajasthan which was facing the fourth consecutive year of drought. If there was a mountain of foodgrains lying unutilized, she questioned why the Union Government was imposing all sorts of restrictions on the affected States.

Coming to education, she stated that it had become an instrument of partisan politics rather than an instrument of empowerment. The meeting of the NCERT Board, convened a few months ago in which the State Education Ministers were also present, refused to approve a new curriculum. The performance of the *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* scheme was not at all satisfactory. On another plane, she stated that the UTI and the stock market scams had ruined crores of small investors. The JPC report was a comprehensive indictment of the Government. She added that petrol pumps and land allocation scams had exposed the level of corruption in the Government. Regarding POTA, she pointed out that there were repeated assurances from the Government that it would not be misused, but it was now being used to harass political rivals, most shockingly against children as well. She concluded that what the President's Address revealed was only suggestive, what it concealed and glossed over was vital and crucial.

Shri Somnath Chatterjee (CPI-M) said that the President's Address had only length but no depth, and was full of hoaxes and inexactitudes intended to cover up the comprehensive failure of the Government in almost every sector of the national life. Expressing concern, he said that today, in the country, there was a fight only over non-issues—whether there should be a temple or whether a masjid should be broken. In the process, the vital needs of the people were being ignored. He wanted that the Government should come back to the real issues, to

the issues of jobs, development, industrial production, people's safety and national security.

Shri Chandrakant Khaire (Shiv Sena) said that the President's Address had talked about creating five crore additional jobs. In this regard, he suggested that the Government should set up more Government companies to achieve the target. The big companies were being sold in the name of disinvestment. He suggested that disinvestment should not be resorted to in profit making companies.

Shri Rashid Alvi (BSP) said that criminalisation of politics was the greatest threat to democracy in India and urged the Government to set up an all party committee to consider measures to reform the system and to alienate criminals from politics.

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh (RJD) said that the President's Address contained no policies and programmes. The Government had promised to constitute the National Judicial Commission but the same had not come about. He pointed out that the Government had no concrete policies and programmes for the uplift of the SCs, STs and OBCs and added that it was anti-people, anti-poor and anti-farmer.

Shri Ajay Chakraborty (CPI) said that basic problems like poverty, unemployment, farmers' the plight of workers' problems, drinking water problem, PDS, etc. were not spelt out in the President's Address. Thousands of workers in public sector units and industries had been thrown out of their jobs when many public sector units and prestigious profit making concerns like HPCL and BPCL were being transferred to the private companies.

Shri Amar Roy Pradhan (All India Forward Bloc) said that the country had not been able to condemn the US and the UK for their war mongering attitude and had failed to stand by Iraq which was a friend of India. Although the Government wanted the Indo-Bhutan River Commission, he stated that nothing was done in this regard in the last five years.

Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale (JD-Secular) commended the Government for bringing out a commemorative stamp of Dattaji Gaikwad, for honouring Shri Jai Prakash Narain on his birth centenary and paying tributes to saints like Tukaram.

Replying to the discussion, the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee said that the President's Address covered most of the subjects of concern to the nation. It invited the country for hard labour which could go a long way in increasing the growth rate. Regarding the

drought situation, he stated that 14 States were affected by drought and there was extreme scarcity of drinking water. There was no fodder for animals, many people were leaving their home and hearth in search of employment. However, the Government was able to control the situation and efforts were on to provide foodgrains to the people. The *Antyodaya* Scheme was a step in that direction under which nearly 1.5 crore families out of the 6 crore families would be benefited. There was no discrimination on political grounds in the matter of providing assistance to drought hit States and 29 lakh tonnes of foodgrains had been provided to Rajasthan which was the maximum and which was 44 per cent of the total allocation of foodgrains.

The Prime Minister stated that the health of the economy of the nation had been reflected in the Budget and in the Economic Survey. It was a matter of concern that the growth rate had declined, but the Government was determined to achieve an 8 per cent growth rate. The continuous drought of the last 2 years had affected the agriculture sector, which had an overall bearing on the national income. However, there were some good signs too. Foreign exchange reserves had increased to 75 billion dollars. This indicated that the situation in the country was suitable for investment.

On the issue of terrorism, the Prime Minister said that there was wide discussion on the subject during the NAM Conference. Countries assembled there were quite concerned about the problem of terrorism. The Prime Minister stated that all efforts should be directed towards accelerating the pace of development so that the maximum number of jobs were created. He urged the House to unanimously pass the motion thanking the President for his Address to the Parliament.

All the amendments were negatived and the motion was adopted.

Discussion under Rule 193 regarding threat to international peace due to mounting tension between USA and Iraq: Initiating the discussion on 19 February 2003, Shri Ramji Lal Suman of the Samajwadi Party said that America was impatient to attack Iraq and it was the duty of all the democratic countries of the world to avoid war in any part of the world. He suggested that war should not only be opposed but meaningful initiative should be taken to prevent the bullying tactics adopted by the United States. The real motive of America was to get control over the oil reserves, and was not about conflict of arms. He stated that the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan had said, not once but many times, that war should be avoided at any cost. After the Vietnam war, America was never subjected to such a criticism all over

the world. He suggested that India should play a vital role in defusing the tension prevailing in different parts of the world.

Participating in the discussion*, Shri Rashid Alvi of the Bahujan Samaj Party said that Iraq had throughout been a close ally of India in the comity of nations and had stood through thick and thin by India. Saying that Iraq was in distress today, he suggested that India should send out signals to the world at large that it would not support military aggression against Iraq or any other country.

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh (RJD) alleged that the United States was undermining the UN and trying to dominate the world. The US, being a democratic country, was expected to respect public opinion of all the countries in the world. But it was finding excuses to attack Iraq and misutilising the support which it got to fight terrorism. He suggested that the House should unanimously pass a resolution to the effect that the issue should be resolved through negotiations.

Shri Ajay Chakraborty (CPI) urged all the members to adopt a unanimous resolution against the aggressive attitude adopted by America and Britain towards Iraq. He stated that India was the leader of the peace movement in the world in the past, but the present Government was very much reluctant to take a bold stand against America. He added that the greatest number of weapons of mass destruction were lying in America and there could be no peace so long as America had these weapons.

Shri G.M. Banatwala (Muslim League Kerala State Committee) said that two reports of the United Nations presented irrefutable conclusion that there was no cause, whatsoever, for a war against Iraq. It was most unfortunate that the United States had declared to go for a war against Iraq even without the support or approval of the United Nations.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Finance and Company Affairs, Shri Jaswant Singh assured the members that the Government would consider the views expressed by them seriously. He informed that the Government had been maintaining active diplomatic engagement with the international community on the evolving situation with regard to Iraq. The Government's position was guided by its belief in maintaining the relevance of the United Nations in matters relating to international

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* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Mani Shankar Aiyar, Rupchand Pal, Brahmanand Mandal, S.S. Palanimanickam, P.H. Pandian, Bhartruhari Mahtab, Joachim Baxla, Lakshman Singh, Dr. B.B. Ramaiah, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, Prof. (Smt.) Krishna Bose and Smt. Margaret Alva

peace and security, the need to avoid a war and avert a humanitarian crisis in Iraq.

The Minister stated that the Government had publicly declared its recognition of the validity of the UN Security Council Resolution 1441 of 8 November 2002. It had further stated that Iraq had to faithfully comply with the provisions of the Resolution and had expressed its belief that in the interest of all humanity, the issue should be resolved peacefully through the United Nations. The Minister informed that the Government's position remained that war should be avoided and, for this purpose, all concerned parties should fully cooperate in finding a peaceful solution to the cause.

Discussion under rule 193 regarding Ayodhya issue: Initiating the discussion on 27 February 2003, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav of the Samajwadi Party said that the Ayodhya issue was continuously coming up for discussion for the last 15 years in and outside Parliament. The country today was facing many serious crises which included threat to internal and external security. If discussions did not lead to any fruitful result, recourse should be taken to the Judiciary. He requested the Prime Minister to explain as to what steps were taken to solve the issue during the five years of his rule. He alleged that the Prime Minister was misleading the nation by proclaiming that he was negotiating a settlement. Urging the Government to take strong action against organisations creating tension between the Hindu and Muslim communities, he said that the Government should respect the sentiments of the nation and should not hand over the land to the *Ramjanmabhoomi Nyas* and keep the country united and strong.

Participating in the discussion*, Shri Chandra Sekhar of the Samajwadi Janata Party (Rashtriya) felt it unfortunate that the Government was dragging the issue unnecessarily. The Government approaching the Supreme Court only showed that it was under some sort of pressure. There could be no solution to the problem if the Government, the Prime Minister and his Cabinet worked under pressure. He added that all concerned must realize that the nation could move ahead towards peace only through dialogue.

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* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Chinmayanand Swami, S. Jaipal Reddy, Vinaya Katiyar, Mohan Rawale, H.D. Devegowda, Shriprakash Jaiswal, A.K.S. Vijayan, Prabhunath Singh, Devendra Prasad Yadav, Prabodh Panda, J.S. Brar, Joachim Baxla, Ali Mohmad Naik, Ramdas Athawale Yogi Aditya Nath, Sardar Buta Singh, Dr. Prasanna Kumar Patasani, Prof. (Smt.) Krishna Bose and Smt. Kanti Singh

Shri Somnath Chatterjee (CPI-M) stressed the necessity of discussing the issue in depth. He stated that from 1994 to 2002, there was no trouble until the demand was made for a *Shila puja*. The three judge Bench of the Supreme Court then ordered that no part of the acquired land should be handed over to anyone by the Union Government. It added that the same shall be retained and no part would be allowed to be used for any other purpose till further orders. This was the order which the Government of India wanted to get vacated. A wrong impression was being deliberately given throughout the country that the Supreme Court made an order only to prevent the risk of disturbance that was there at that time; otherwise, the Supreme Court would not have done it. It was further said that now that there was peace, the Supreme Court could give the land to those people. The purpose of making this application by the Government was to continue with their Hindutva agenda. Stating that from March 2002, there was no trouble until the *Dharma Sansad* made a demand, he urged the Government to withdraw its petition.

Shri K. Yerrannaidu (TDP) requested all political parties to abide by the Constitution and not to divide the country on the issue. No political party should take advantage of the situation at a critical juncture in the nations history.

Shri Rashid Alvi (BSP) said that the country got Independence after many sacrifices, and controversies should not be created out of a temple or a mosque.

Shri G.M. Banatwala (Muslim League Kerala State Committee) expressed shock that the Government had deemed it fit to approach the Supreme Court to vacate the stay order relating to any religious activity or transfer of any portion of the acquired land in Ayodhya. The Government should be neutral in religious matters and must refrain from promotion of any particular religion.

Shri Amar Roy Pradhan (All India Forward Bloc) said that the tone and tenor of the speeches of some leaders and the kind of demonstrations that were being led by the stalwarts of the VHP made us recall the partition of the country in 1947. Saying that such circumstances would only lead to the disintegration of the nation, he appealed to all people to stand together and maintain the secular fabric of the country.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Law and Justice and Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Arun Jaitley said that the specific purpose of the application filed by the Union Government in the Supreme Court on 4 February 2003 was that the case should be heard

expeditiously. The application was heard on 21 February 2003. This was regarding the particular situation prevailing in Ayodhya. The Supreme Court, after hearing the application, had ruled that the suit which was filed with it in last March would be taken for hearing from 6 March. In case the hearing was not possible from 6 March, due to some or the other reasons, there would be hearing on the interim ruling given by the Supreme Court in March 2002. The Minister stated that whatever the Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court would decide in the matter with regard to the disputed area, the Government would follow; whatever the Supreme Court would decide in Delhi with regard to residual matters, the Government would enforce those directions. He stated that for the first time it had been clarified in the NDA agenda that the Ayodhya issue would be settled either through a dialogue or through the decision of the court.

Statement by the Prime Minister regarding the 13th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM): Making a Statement in the House on 3 March 2003, the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee said that he had led the Indian Delegation to the 13th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) held in Kuala Lumpur on 24 and 25 February 2003. The specific theme of the summit was 'The Continuing Revitalization of NAM'. The Prime Minister informed that the Summit suggested that NAM should focus on key issues of common concern to its member States—issues that unite, rather than divide the 116 countries. NAM should not get embroiled in bilateral issues between member states. It was also stressed that NAM should adopt a positive and forward looking agenda with emphasis on multilateralism, combating terrorism, reform of the UN system, North-South engagement and South-South cooperation. It should promote the fundamental values of democracy, human rights and multiculturalism. The Movement had to adopt an objective and pragmatic position on global issues and should be positioned as a major pole in a multi-polar world.

The Prime Minister stated that international terrorism was one of the most hotly debated issues at the Summit. As a victim of terrorism, India stressed that NAM must take an unequivocal line, avoiding double standards and not offering excuses for terrorism by investigating its justifications. He expressed satisfaction that India was able to ensure that its viewpoint on the subject was adequately reflected in the NAM Communique. He said that India's ideas were largely reflected in the Kuala Lumpur Declaration issued at the end of the Summit. The Declaration was abundantly clear on the principles that NAM should focus on global issues, avoid divisive debates, reject moves for intra-

NAM conflict resolution, strengthen existing mechanisms (rather than create new ones) and effectively address contemporary challenges.

Apart from the final Communique and the Kuala Lumpur Declaration, he stated that the Summit also issued statements on Iraq and the Palestinian issue. He said that it was a significant achievement that NAM arrived at a balanced consensus text on Iraq. There was unity in the Movement on the need for a continuation of multilateral efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Iraq crisis. There was also a clear exhortation to Iraq to fully comply with its obligations under the UN Security Council Resolutions.

The Prime Minister informed that President Musharraf included in his statement some totally unwarranted remarks about Jammu & Kashmir, contrary to NAM's long-standing and healthy tradition of steering clear of bilateral issues. He said that he responded to those unacceptable statements by highlighting the irony of his talking about an international humanitarian order, while Pakistan encouraged and incited the terrorists who perpetrated violence every day against innocent civilians in Jammu and Kashmir. He added that Pakistan did not get support for its views from any other country at the Summit. He expressed the hope that Pakistan would draw the right conclusions from this experience and understand the futility of such efforts at multilateral conferences, which would only further vitiate Indo-Pakistan relations.

The Prime Minister also informed that he addressed a NAM Business Forum on South-South Cooperation at a session attended by the Presidents of South Africa and Indonesia and the Prime Minister of Thailand. He also informed that he had useful meetings with several leaders, including the host, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad; the Presidents of Cuba, Iran, Mali, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Zimbabwe; the Prime Ministers of Nepal and Mauritius; and the first Vice President of Sudan. He said that they discussed a range of international and bilateral issues.

The Prime Minister concluded that he had come away from these meetings with the impression that many world leaders felt that they were today at the threshold of a new and uncertain period in international relations. The future was fraught with many dangers for developing countries, particularly those which were weak and vulnerable. There was a search for clarity, but answers were as yet not available. He stressed on the need to carefully monitor and assess the impact of unfolding developments.

Statement by the Prime Minister regarding Iraq situation: Making a

Statement in the House on 12 March 2003, the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee said that the situation relating to Iraq had been rapidly evolving over the past few weeks. India had consistently stood for a peaceful resolution of the Iraq issue. The peace and prosperity of the Gulf was of vital interest to India, given her long standing political, cultural and economic ties with the countries of the region. There were over 3.5 million Indians working in the Gulf whose welfare was of great concern to the country. Their remittances were an important source of foreign exchange for the country and over 60 per cent of India's crude oil imports were sourced from the region. India recognized the validity of the unanimous decision of the UN Security Council in its Resolution 1441, which provided for the disarmament of Iraq and also reaffirmed the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq, Kuwait and the neighbouring States. He stated that Resolution 1441 provided a stringent regime of inspections designed to meet the international community's desire that Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) were eliminated from Iraq. Stressing that Iraq must cooperate actively with the inspection process and comply fully with all relevant Security Council Resolutions, he said that if the pace of this cooperation had been quicker, it might have enabled the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to certify to the UN Security Council that Iraq was in full compliance of Resolution 1441.

The Prime Minister stated that the international community must take a very careful look both at the objective of achieving Iraq's full compliance with the UN resolutions and at the means to be adopted to reach that goal. He expressed the hope that the members of the Security Council would harmonise their positions to ensure that its final decision enhanced the legitimacy and credibility of the United Nations. The Government of India would strongly urge for no military action without the collective concurrence of the international community.

The Prime Minister expressed the sincere hope that in the interest of all humanity, the matter would be resolved peacefully through the United Nations. He stated that his Government had drawn up contingency plans to deal with any eventuality and Indian nationals in Iraq had all been advised to leave the country in the coming days. He informed that the Ministry of Civil Aviation had drawn up plans to evacuate Indians, if necessary. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas had taken steps to shore up India's inventories of crude oil. While no major dislocation in crude oil imports was envisaged, India had adequate foreign exchange reserves to meet a higher crude oil import bill if prices continue to rise in the short run.

Statement by the Deputy Prime Minister regarding the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002 (POTA, 2002): Making a Statement in the House on 13 March 2003, the Deputy Prime Minister and incharge of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Shri L.K. Advani stated that with the intensification of cross border terrorism and the continued offensive agenda of Pakistan's ISI, targeted at destabilising India, and the post-September 11 developments, it became necessary to put in place a special law to deal with terrorist acts. Accordingly, the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002 (POTA, 2002) was enacted and notified on 28 March 2002. He stated that the POTA, 2002 clearly defined a terrorist act and a terrorist in Section 3 and granted special powers to the investigating authorities under the Act. However, in order to ensure that these powers were not misused and the violation of human rights did not take place, specific safeguards had been built into the Act which included that: no court could take cognisance of any offence under the Act without the previous sanction of the Union Government or, as the case may be, of the State Government; no officer lower in rank than the Deputy Superintendent of Police could investigate offences under the Act; and confession made by a person before a police officer not below the rank of Superintendent of Police was admissible, as evidence under the Act provided such person was produced within 48 hours before a magistrate along with his confessional statement.

The Act provided for punishment to any officer who exercised powers maliciously or with *mala fide* intentions. It also provided for award of compensation to a person who had been corruptly or maliciously proceeded against under the Act. He stated that the POTA, 2002 provided the legal framework to strengthen the hands of the administration in the fight against the menace of terrorism and could and should be applied against such persons and such acts as were covered by the provisions of this law, and it was not meant as a substitute for action under ordinary criminal laws.

Shri Advani said that members had raised from time to time the issue that the provisions of this law were invoked even against such persons and acts which did not fall into the ambit of this law. The Government had given careful consideration to their views and it had been decided that the matter was serious enough to warrant the invoking of the powers of the Union Government under Section 60 of the Act which provided for the formation of one or more Review Committees. The Review Committee would consist of Justice Arun Saharya, former Chief Justice of the Punjab High Court as Chairperson. The Review

Committee would take a comprehensive view of the use of this legislation in various States and give its findings and suggestions for removing the shortcomings in the implementation of the law with special reference to ensuring that the provisions of the Act were invoked for combating terrorism and were not used against ordinary criminals or those who were not terrorists or whose acts could not be considered as terrorist acts. He added that the terms and conditions of the Committee would be worked out separately and that the other members of the Review Committee would be named soon.

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1999:* The discussion on the Bill took place on 18 and 19 February 2003. Moving the Bill for consideration on 18 February 2003, the Minister of Law and Justice and Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Arun Jaitley said that this was a small amendment both to the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and to the Indian Penal Code. Section 60 of the Act permitted any person with 'service qualification' to give his vote by postal ballot. 'Service qualification' as defined in sub-section (8) of section 20 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 *inter alia* included members of the Armed Forces of the Union and of the forces to which the provisions of the Army Act, 1950 had been made applicable with or without modifications.

The Election Commission of India, keeping in view the fact that with the enactment of the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 1996, the minimum campaign period had been reduced from twenty days to fourteen days, and keeping in view the logistic constraints involved in despatching postal ballots to members of the Armed Forces through their record offices and receiving those ballot papers back before the counting process commences, recommended that members of the Armed Forces, in order to ensure their full participation in the electoral exercises, may be allowed to vote by proxy instead of by postal ballot. The Government had considered the matter and had decided to provide an option to the members of the Armed Forces of the Union and of forces to which the provisions of the Army Act, 1950 had been made applicable, whether with or without modifications, to vote either in person or through the system of postal ballot or through the system of proxy, at an election in the manner to be specified in the rules.

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* The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 9 December 1999

Participating in the discussion*, Shri Ajoy Chakraborty said that the introduction of proxy voting was nothing but a violation of the principle of secrecy. He requested the Minister to think again on the issue, consult all the political parties, arrive at a consensus and bring a comprehensive Bill later.

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh (RJD) said that Army personnel posted in border areas were also entitled to participate in the elections and that was why the Standing Committee was of the opinion that all the political parties should consider it and evolve some other alternatives to proxy voting so that the Defence personnel enjoyed the right to franchise.

Sardar Simranjit Singh Mann (SAD-SS Mann) said that members of the Armed Forces should have the right to vote but should not get any extra privileges that a common citizen did not get.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Law and Justice and Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Arun Jaitley said that the principle of secrecy, being followed by postal ballot, was leading to deprivation of the right to vote. It was leading to 90 per cent of the Armed Forces virtually being de-franchised. The Government considered that given a choice between virtually de-franchising them or giving them a voluntary option of appointing a proxy, the second option would be a more balanced one. The Minister stated that this would be an experiment, which would be tried in a democracy like India's, particularly when officers of the Army had appeared before the Standing Committee and strongly argued the case. He felt that taking the help of electronic devices for voting would not be helpful in this regard. If improvements were required at a later date, the Minister stated that the House was always there to make those improvements.

The Bill, as amended, was passed.

*The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess (Amendment) Bill, 2000***:* Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill on 18 February 2003, the Minister of Environment and Forests, Shri T.R. Baalu said that the Bill sought to augment the resources of the Central and State Pollution Control Boards and to promote economy in the use of water with a view to reducing pollution. The Water (Prevention and

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* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, Prakash Mani Tripathi, Hannan Mollah, E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan, Anadi Charan Sahu, Shivraj V. Patil, Vijayendra Pal Singh Badnore, Bikram Keshari Deo, Varkala Radhakrishnan, Adhi Sankar, Prabhunath Singh, P.H. Pandian, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and Dr. M.V.V.S. Murthi

** The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 15 December 2000

Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977 was enacted to provide for the levy and collection of cess on water consumed by industries and local authorities with a view to augmenting the resources of the Central and State Pollution Control Boards for the prevention and control of water pollution which were constituted under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. The existing rates of water cess were revised in 1991 because the responsibility and workload of the Pollution Control Boards expanded considerably with the rapid expansion of industrial and other economic activities causing pollution and affecting the environment.

The Minister stated that as per the World Health Organization, only 0.007 per cent of all water on earth was readily available for human consumption globally. In India, the per capita average annual fresh water availability had reduced from 5177 cubic metres from 1951 to about 1820 cubic metres in 2001, and was estimated to further come down to 1341 cubic metres in 2005. Thus, there was a need to take all measures to promote conservation and efficient use of water. The cess rates were being revised and the applicability of cess was being extended to all categories of industries, which consumed more water than the prescribed minimum quantity level and discharge sewage or trade effluents. He added that cess was proposed to be abolished on the hydel power units.

Participating in the discussion*, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh of the Rashtriya Janata Dal said that factories were a major source of pollution. In villages, fish died due to water pollution and the common people had no option but to use the same water for drinking purposes. He felt that the cess levied might help in improving the financial condition of the Central and the State Pollution Boards but expressed doubt that it would help to control pollution and provide clean drinking water to the people.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Environment and Forests, Shri T.R. Baalu stated that the Bill mainly pertained to industrial water. The cess was intended for those who were not using water rationally. He stated that the problem of pollution of rivers could not be dealt with immediately. Rivers got polluted because of drainage and municipal waste. There were 1555 high polluting industries in India. Action against 23 polluting industries had already been taken by the Ministry, he added.

The Bill, as amended, was passed.

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* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan, Rampal Singh, Moinul Hassan, Ramesh Chennithala, Bikram Keshari Deo, Dharmraj Singh Patel, Prabodh Panda and Ramdas Athawale

RAJYA SABHA

ONE HUNDRED AND NINETY-EIGHTH SESSION*

The Rajya Sabha, which met for its One Hundred and Ninety-eighth Session on 17 February 2003, was adjourned on 13 March 2003 to enable the Department-related Standing Committees to examine the Demands for Grants of the Ministries/Departments assigned to them and report back to the House. The House reconvened on 7 April 2003 and was adjourned *sine die* on 9 May 2003. The Rajya Sabha was then prorogued by the President on 10 May 2003.

A resume of some of the important discussions held and other business transacted during the Session is given below:

A. STATEMENTS/DISCUSSIONS

Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address to Members of Parliament: On 17 February 2003, the President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam addressed the members of both Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Central Hall of Parliament House**.

The Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address was moved by Dr. L.M. Singhvi of the Bharatiya Janata Party in the Rajya Sabha on 20 February 2003. The discussion took place on 20, 24, 25 February and 4 March 2003. Moving the Motion, Dr. Singhvi said that the Address reflected an inclusive and integrated approach and a vision and mission of India. The President's tribute to Kalpana Chawla and her six fellow astronauts had touched the hearts of the members. As a matter of national celebration of the saga of Kalpana's life, he welcomed the announcement made by the Prime Minister that the *Metsat* series of satellites would be named after her. He also welcomed the Government's decision to introduce necessary legislations for dual citizenship for persons of Indian origin living in certain countries during the *Pravasi Bharatiya Conference.* While observing that the Address had mentioned the Tenth Plan as not merely a 'Resources Plan', but also a 'Reforms Plan', he said that for the first time, there seemed to be a renewed resolve to put through reforms in the civil service, police and judicial and educational institutions which had been on the anvil for many decades. He called upon the Government to launch an initiative for an

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* Contributed by the Research and Library Section, Rajya Sabha Secretariat

** For the text of the Address, *see* Feature, "Address by the President to Parliament", in this issue of *The Journal of Parliamentary Information*, pp. 192

effective international extradition regime in the global war against terrorism. He also appreciated the concerted efforts of the Government to rebuild peace in North-East India and emphasised that the issue of regional disparities had to be resolved quickly. The Centre's national initiatives such as the *Swajaldhara*, *Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana*, the *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana* and the National Highways Development Project provided the most eloquent manifestations of the Vision-2020 contained in the Address.

Seconding the Motion, Shri Satish Pradhan of the Shiv Sena said that the President's Address referred to important issues, including the issue of disinvestment. He opined that the Government's role should be limited to the creation of a conducive atmosphere for running industries and factories and urged the Government to see to it that disinvestment did not result in retrenchment of workers which could ultimately lead to social tensions and unrest. He welcomed the involvement of the representatives of the *Panchayats* in the new schemes like the Kisan Credit Card scheme, *Swajaldhara* programme, the *Hariyali* scheme, etc. Expressing his concern over infiltration from some neighbouring countries, he said that terrorism posed a serious threat to the country. Denouncing party-politics on the *Ayodhya* issue, he suggested that it could be sorted out by constructing a national memorial there.

Taking part in the discussion*, the Leader of the Opposition, Dr. Manmohan Singh observed that the President's Address could be divided into three parts, *i.e.* management of the economy, national security and foreign policy initiatives and said that it was weak when it came to spelling out precise strategies and programmes. In the Tenth Five Year Plan, a target of 8 per cent annual average GDP growth rate had been fixed for which a development strategy was needed, and credible strategies would have to be adopted to raise expenditure on education and public health to realize the promises made in the President's Address or in the Vision-2020. He said that there was a lack of long-term strategic thinking regarding defence preparedness and suggested that the Parliament could have a Standing Committee dealing

* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Janeshwar Mishra, Balkavi Bairagi, Dina Nath Mishra, C. Ramachandraiah, C.P. Thirunavukkarasu, Fali S. Nariman, Eduardo Faleiro, Ajay Maroo, Cho. S. Ramaswamy, K. Natwar Singh, B.P. Singhal, Shankar Roy Chowdhury, Nana Deshmukh, Shahid Siddiqui, Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan', Ram Jethmalani, M.V. Rajasekharan, Manoj Bhattacharya, H.K. Javare Gowda, Parmeshwar Kumar Agarwalla, D.P. Yadav, R.S. Gavai, Lalit Suri, Rishang Keishing, Ekanath K. Thakur, Ranganath Misra, Surendra Lath, Dr. P.C. Alexander, Dr. M.N. Das, Dr.(Smt.) Prabha Thakur and Prof. R.B.S Varma

specifically with matters relating to national security and assessment of intelligence system. Criticising some organisations for fanning communal hatred, he expressed doubt about the Government's seriousness to promote communal harmony. Regarding the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA), he underlined the need for effective mechanisms to ensure that it was not misused. On foreign policy initiatives, he called for a firm approach in dealing with Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. He said that reducing diplomatic contacts between India and Pakistan would be a counter-productive exercise. India could take a more proactive interest to promote co-operation in the SAARC region as the current stalemate was not consistent either with the country's long-term interest or in the interest of South Asia as a whole. Expressing his concern at the happenings in Iraq, he said that the United Nations had to play a decisive role in bringing about a peaceful resolution of all outstanding issues in the region and unilateral action by the United States of America had to be avoided.

Shri S. Ramachandran Pillai (CPI-M) said that the President's Address ignored the issue of urban poverty and unemployment. There was a shrinkage of institutional credit facilities in the rural areas and the Kisan Credit Card Scheme benefited only a small section of farmers. The cottage industries, the handicraft sector and the small and medium industries were in crisis due to the import of commodities from outside and the entry of multinationals into the country. The Government had failed in its assurance to discuss the issue of the Second Labour Commission with the trade unions for enacting certain legislations. He also expressed concern at the increasing incidents of kidnapping, extortion, crimes against women and children, attempts by many terrorist groups to establish their influence in different parts of the country, complaints about police atrocities and misuse of the POTA.

Shri J. Chitharanjan (CPI) called upon the Government to make its policy clear on the Iraq issue, given India's trade relations with Iraq and its dependency on that country for its energy requirements. He stated that 65 per cent of the population of the country depended on agriculture and that a fall in agricultural production had led to their indebtedness, even resulting in suicides. He expressed doubt over the Government's objective of creating nearly five crore jobs as stated in the President's Address. Disagreeing with the President's statement that the Gujarat election had strengthened democracy, he said that people belonging to minority communities in the State were quite worried about their future and urged the Government to take serious steps to see that secularism was maintained.

Shri Lalu Prasad (RJD) criticized the Government for its failure to restrain communal forces, to check corruption and the rising unemployment due to entry of foreign multinational companies into the country. Bihar suffered a lot of damage annually due to water-logging. He said that no work on the National Highways was being undertaken in the State by the Union Government.

Shri S. Viduthalai Virumbi (DMK) said that India had a vision of becoming a developed nation by the year 2020 and to achieve that goal, economic development was basic and essential which required industrial development as well as increased agricultural production and productivity.

Replying to the discussion on 4 March 2003, the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee said that the Non-aligned Movement (NAM) was still relevant and it could contribute a lot towards making the global system peaceful and justifiable. India had suggested at the NAM meeting held in Kuala Lumpur that a Global Poverty Alleviation Fund be set up for assisting poor countries. Regarding Jammu and Kashmir, he stated that a new chapter had been started in the State by holding elections there and the people had exercised their franchise with hope and belief. While acknowledging that the growth rate of the economy had slowed down due to failure in the agricultural front as the country had faced drought for the last two years, he said that it was determined to achieve the targeted growth rate which could be difficult but not impossible. Regarding the development of road network in rural areas, the Prime Minister said that an ambitious scheme of Rs.7,000 crore under the *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana* had been undertaken; the construction of rural roads was the responsibility of the States, but for the first time, the Centre was providing 100 per cent funds to fulfil an important priority of national development. Similarly, electronic connectivity was currently being undertaken by making telephones, mobile phones and Internet services available in the villages. The empowerment of *Panchayats* had not yet been achieved due to lack of resources and as a result developmental programmes could not be taken up at the grassroot level. He suggested that a joint session of Parliament be called to effect necessary amendment in the Constitution to give these institutions financial and administrative powers. He reiterated the President's reference in his Address regarding the Ayodhya issue which stated that the issue had to be resolved either by dialogue between the two communities or the judicial pronouncement had to be acceptable to all concerned. The Prime Minister said that since the drought condition in Rajasthan had been very severe, the Union Government had given to the State the maximum amount of funds for the purpose. Regarding the

Pravasi Bharatiya Sammelan held in the country recently, he said that it had been aimed at resolving the problems faced by a large number of Indians living abroad. In addition, the Government was also contemplating granting dual citizenship to Indians living in some other countries.

All the amendments moved were either withdrawn or negatived. The Motion of Thanks was adopted.

The Budget (Railways), 2003-2004: The discussion in this regard took place on 3, 4, 5 and 7 March 2003.

Initiating the discussion on 3 March 2003, Shri K. Rahman Khan of the Indian National Congress said that the total projected gross earnings by the Railways for the year 2003-2004 was Rs.43,445 crore, which was an increase of 5 per cent of the previous year's Budget expectations. He welcomed the measure to improve the railway's share in the goods traffic but said that there was a lot of pilferage in the goods' sheds and godowns and the insurance claims were not settled quickly. He urged the Government to analyse the reasons for decrease in revenue from the passengers' traffic and to check ticketless travelling. He expressed doubt on the Railway's ability to achieve a 'Customers Satisfaction Year' (2003-04) against competition from other modes of transport.

Shri Khan said that safety was a major concern of the Indian Railways and urged the Government to give priority to the installation of anti-collusion devices in the railway tracks, reconstruction of weak railway bridges, doubling of the railway lines to carry more passengers and freight, and completion of gauge conversion within a particular time-frame to avoid overrun cost. He considered the Budget as being soft, and said that there was no provision for the various developmental programmes which had been highlighted in the Budget speech.

Participating in the discussion* Dr. Alladi P. Rajkumar of the Telugu Desam Party welcomed the Railway Budget but wanted to know the

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* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Jayantilal Barot, Dipankar Mukherjee, Rama Shanker Kaushik, Moolchand Meena, Surendra Lath, Gaya Singh, Gandhi Azad, Shankar Roy Chowdhury, Ramachandra Khuntia, Lajpat Rai, Tarini Kanta Roy, Ajay Maroo, Datta Meghe, M.P. Abdussamad Samadani, M.V. Rajasekharan, Manoj Bhattacharya, Ravalu Chandra Sekar Reddy, Bachani Lekhraj, Ahmed Patel, M.A. Kadar, R.S. Gavai, Rajeev Shukla, Nandi Yellaiah, Parmeshwar Kumar Agarwalla, Harendra Singh Malik, B.S. Gnanadesikan, Matilal Sarkar, Dara Singh Chauhan, Dwijendra Nath Sharmah, Harish Rawat, Ramadhar Kashyap, Maulana Obaidullah Khan Azmi, Prof. M. Sankaralingam, Prof. R.B.S. Varma, Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary, Prof. Saif-ud-Din Soz, Shrimati Bimba Raikar, Shrimati Jamana Devi Barupal, Shrimati Shabana Azmi, Shrimati Savita Sharda, Shrimati Prema Cariappa, Shrimati Gurcharan Kaur and Shrimati Vanga Geetha

steps being taken by the Government regarding the safety of the railways. He urged the Government to computerize the district railway headquarters, construct bridges on rail lines to prevent traffic jams, introduce trains like 'Palace on Wheels' in the four southern States to promote tourism, Rajdhani Express train between New Delhi and Hyderabad, a train between Tirupati and Delhi *via* Shirdi, Shatabdi train from Delhi to Hyderabad *via* Vijayawada and Karnool and a circular train in the nine districts of Telengana region of Andhra Pradesh to facilitate the development of the backward areas.

Shri P.G. Narayanan (AIADMK) said that there had been no major projects relating to doubling of railway line in Tamil Nadu since Independence. He called for substantial allocation of funds for the various ongoing gauge conversion projects, immediate sanction of doubling of railway lines from Madras-Egmore to Kanyakumari and expeditious implementation of the Mass Rapid Transit System in Chennai with 100 per cent funding by the Ministry of Railways as it was done in the case of Kolkata and Delhi.

Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav (Samajwadi Party) congratulated the Minister of Railways for presenting a good budget. Regarding the safety of railways, he said that manual inspection of railway lines was more effective than inspection by machine. He suggested that the number of railway employees should be increased. The looting of passengers by anti-social elements had to be checked, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) had to be strengthened and the number of ordinary compartments in the trains should be increased.

Shri Satish Pradhan (Shiv Sena) said that the first high-speed train of India had been started that would run between Mumbai and Madgaon at a speed of 160 kms. per hour and suggested that the other towns in the country should also be connected with such trains. He underlined the need for public announcement at the railway stations and in the trains in local languages, which would benefit the people.

Shri G.K. Vasan (TMC-Moopanar) welcomed the concession in fares given to the patients suffering from heart and kidney ailments and cancer and bringing down the eligibility age from 65 to 60 years for senior citizens for availing concession. He urged the Minister of Railways to set up a committee to look into the ways of making use of the unutilized property of the railways, which was worth crores of rupees.

Replying to the discussion on 7 March 2003, the Minister of Railways, Shri Nitish Kumar said that the Government intended to bring

out a White Paper on railway safety so that a discussion could take place on it covering all aspects. A special Railway Safety Fund had become functional since 1 October 2001. The State Governments had been asked to provide a list of the busiest level-crossings on which overbridges or underbridges were to be constructed. The Ministry of Railways would bear the expenditure to be incurred on the bridge portion, and the approach road would be constructed by the concerned State Government. He said that the Budget had also provided for continuous track circuiting system for ensuring railway safety. More than 20,000 regular vacancies in Group 'D' posts in the Railways relating to safety work would be filled up through the Railway Recruitment Boards within a year and examinations for such recruitment would also be conducted in all the regional languages included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.

The Minister said that allocation of funds depended on budgetary support for strengthening railway tracks in the country. For this purpose, the Prime Minister had announced Rs.8,000 crore for the Rashtriya Rail Vikas Yojana. The Rail Vikas Nigam had been set up and funds would also be provided by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) through the Ministry of Finance. Freight charges for goods had been rationalized in five categories to mobilize more funds for utilizing in all pending projects. Regarding the State of Jammu and Kashmir, he said that the work on the Katra-Udhampur railway line would be completed by the year 2004. The Government had fixed priority criterion on allocating funds to the States and the funds were given to them on the basis of population, area, ongoing projects to be completed and the projects of a particular State. The railway projects were meant to connect remote areas, he added.

The Budget (General), 2003-2004: The discussion in this regard took place on 11, 12 and 13 March 2003. Initiating the discussion on 11 March 2003, the Leader of the Opposition, Dr. Manmohan Singh said that as per the Mid-Year Review of the economy and the Economic Survey, the Indian economy was performing below its potential. The average growth rate of the GDP for the last four years was not more than five per cent. The National Sample Survey also showed an alarming situation with regard to the employment situation in the country. He urged that the vision contained in the President's Address to make India a front-ranking economy of the world in the next twenty years had to be backed by a realistic strategy and programme of action. He criticized the Budget for ignoring the reform of the tax structure and pointed out that there was no attempt to reverse the declining trend in the ratio of tax and the GDP to contain expenditure and its prioritization.

The tax proposals in the Budget appeared to be an attempt to distribute patronage and not to streamline the tax system and it imposed taxes and burdens on the common man. Regarding rural development, he pointed out that a shortfall of about Rs.5,000 crore in the allocations for it, including for rural houses, amounted to a neglect of a sector which was vital for the growth of the Indian economy, and for tackling the problem of poverty. The allocation of Rs.443 crore for irrigation and flood control in the current year's Budget Estimates was not sufficient. He welcomed the tax concession given for education of upto two children but called for an increase in the allocation for elementary education and literacy due to the increasing number of school going children. He urged the Government to revitalize financial institutions to increase investment in public sector, particularly for the development of infrastructure and growth of the private sector. He added that the States needed restructuring of their debts.

Participating in the discussion*, Shri S. Viduthalai Virumbi of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam said that though the Government of India would compensate the States for three years with regard to the Value Added Tax (VAT), the problem faced by the States was regarding the Sales Tax concession. He wanted to know as to how the State Governments would fulfil their assurances to the new entrepreneurs once the period of three years was completed. He pointed out that the benefits of the declining rate of interest had not percolated to critical sectors such as agriculture and the Small Scale Industries (SSI). He requested the Central Government to deal with issues of privatization not from a political perspective but with a broader outlook, as these were economic issues.

Shri J. Chitharanjan (CPI) criticized the Budget, terming it anti-poor and pro-rich. The Budget had given several concessions to the corporate sector and the multinationals at a time when the country's industry had been stagnating. Agricultural production, revenue realization and capital expenditure had been going down and unemployment and poverty were also on the rise. He urged the Minister of Finance to reconsider the reform process programmes and also to reorganize the entire health services if the poor were to be benefited.

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* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Balbir K. Punj, Rama Shanker Kaushik, C. Ramachandraiah, Prithviraj Chavan, Dina Nath Mishra, Nilotpal Basu, Pranab Mukherjee, Ekanath K. Thakur, Lalit Suri, Datta Meghe, R.P. Goenka, Kalraj Mishra, Ashwani Kumar, Gandhi Azad, Fali S. Nariman, Suresh Kalmadi, Lalitbhai Mehta, R.S. Gavai, Shankar Roy Chowdhury, C. Perumal, Harendra Singh Malik, T.S. Bajwa, Manoj Bhattacharya, Dr. P.C. Alexander, Prof. Alka Balram Kshatriya, Shrimati S.G. Indira, Shrimati Saroj Dubey and Miss Mabel Rebello

Replying to the discussion on 13 March 2003, the Minister of Finance and Company Affairs, Shri Jaswant Singh said that the GDP growth rate had come down to 4.4 per cent due to a series of factors, including drought, flood, the prevailing situation in the Gulf region having a spiral effect on the crude oil prices and the military stand-off with the neighbouring country for the last 9-10 months, which had led to a shortfall in the receipts of the Government. The Government was concerned about the fiscal deficit but, despite the adverse circumstances, had kept the same at 5.6 per cent, and in the current year, had saved Rs.7,000 crore in expenditure to contain the fiscal deficit. He said that currently 50 per cent of the revenue of the Government was spent on interests; 20 per cent on subsidies; and 25 per cent on defence. The Government would have to address the issue of its annual total payment of Rs.50,000 crore on subsidy. Regarding the agricultural sector, he said that India had not been in the forefront of agricultural produce due to lack of sufficient capital investment and technological input.

The Minister said that in the areas of transport and communications, forty-eight roads would be taken up, of which 7 to 8 were ready for tendering. The two airports in Delhi and Mumbai would be modernized and upgraded to international standards. Regarding the employment situation in the country, he said that 8 to 9 per cent of the total workforce was employed in the organized sector and employment in the unorganized sector was also expanding. Regarding the defence sector, he said that the country could have a defence budget on a twelve-month basis, but the management would have to be on a twenty-four month basis as the procurement of weapons was not possible in a twelve-month cycle. The Minister informed the House that the Government was committed to complete the *Setu Samudram* project for connecting India and Sri Lanka, which was announced by the Prime Minister during the visit of the Sri Lankan Prime Minister to India, on a time-bound, mission-mode basis.

Short Duration Discussion on alleged misuse of MPLADS arising out of the recent disclosures in the form of videotapes: Initiating the discussion on 10 March 2003, Shri Kapil Sibal of the Indian National Congress said that the purpose of the funds under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) was for developmental activities in the States. However, it had become a subject of controversy pursuant to a statement made by the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh with regard to the MPLADS funds in a videotape. In the videotape that was recorded, it was said that every member of the State Legislature

got Rs.75 lakh and every member of Parliament got Rs.2 crore and out of that amount, four lakh could be retained by the member himself and one lakh could be given to the party. He pointed out that the public funds had been sought to be misused for private and political purposes, which had resulted in rampant corruption. He observed that such funds could not be transferred to party funds, and the issue should be discussed in Parliament as it involved budgetary appropriations. He said that if such things were allowed to continue, people would lose faith in politicians and in the democratic system of the Government and it would destroy the concept of transparency and accountability.

Intervening in the debate, the Minister of Health and Family Welfare and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj said that the discussion on the subject should be limited to the MPLAD Scheme, its misuse and loopholes with a view to strengthening the same.

Taking part in the discussion*, Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary of the Rashtriya Janata Dal condemned the misuse of the fund under the MPLADS and said that it had crossed all limits of political morality and values and had put a question mark on the honour, prestige, sense of devotion and integrity of all the members of Parliament and members of the Legislative Assemblies, which he felt was a serious matter. He demanded an inquiry by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to find out the truth of the videotape and legal action against the guilty persons.

Shri Shankar Roy Chowdhury (Independent) said that if the funds were put to right use, it would provide necessary relief and solace to common people to a great extent. The district administration monitored the execution of various projects under the MPLADS and the needful had to be done for making the Scheme meaningful and useful. There should also be a follow-up action on the report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General (CAG) that was submitted every year on the MPLAD Scheme so that people could know that the money was put to proper use.

Shri R.S. Gavai (Republican Party of India) said that there should be more transparency, proper monitoring, execution and strict scrutiny of the fund under the MPLADS. He pointed out that there would be less scope for misusing the fund if the aims, objectives and guidelines of the

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Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Kalraj Mishra, Prasanta Chatterjee, Janeshwar Mishra, Suresh Pachouri, Gaya Singh, Satish Pradhan, Gandhi Azad, Rajeev Shukla, Manoj Bhattacharya and S.S. Ahluwalia

MPLADS fund were strictly observed by the MPs and the decision-making and supervisory authorities at the district level.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Shri Satyabrata Mookherjee said that the MPLAD Scheme was introduced in the year 1993, but no complaint had been lodged in the past ten years with regard to the misuse of funds by members of Parliament. He said that under the Scheme, the money did not go through the MP who was entitled only to recommend a particular scheme. The money went to the District Collector (DC) or the District Magistrate (DM) who scrutinized the Scheme, got the matter investigated and estimates prepared, after which the funds were released. Thereafter, it went to the executing agency, which was a State agency. Therefore, an MP did not have the means of scrutinizing the schemes or handling the money because it entirely went to the State machinery straight from Delhi. He said that the schemes were implemented according to the established procedure of each State Government and there was an audit, and the CAG also audited the accounts of the MPLADS. If complaints were made with regard to an irregularity, the Government would write to the State Government, the nodal Ministry, as well as the District Magistrate to enquire into the matter. He asserted that the tape recording was not by itself an evidence and the newspaper publications were also not evidence by themselves, but they had to be corroborated. He added that the percentage of utilization of the funds under the MPLADS had gone up, and a lot of work had been done not only in the State of Uttar Pradesh but also in other States and there was no question of stopping that now.

Calling Attention on the situation arising out of growing labour unrest caused by loss of job, violation of labour laws, closure of units, privatization of PSUs, etc.: On 26 February 2003, Shri Jibon Roy of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) called the attention of the Minister of Labour in this regard.

Replying to the Calling Attention, the Minister of Labour, Shri Sahib Singh Verma said that the emerging economic environment involving rapid technological changes, globalization of the economy and the liberalization of trade and industry had led to a change in the employment pattern. While there might have been a decline in employment in certain sectors like agriculture, mining and quarrying, electricity, etc., buoyant growth had been recorded in other sectors of the economy. He said that the number of strikes and lock-outs declined during the years 1997 – 2000. Through the conciliatory efforts of the Central Industrial

Relations Machinery, major strikes were averted during the year 2002-03 in the coal industry involving the Coal India Limited, Singareni Collieries and the ports and dock sector which benefited a large number of workmen and also averted the anticipated loss of wages and production. The Minister said that as far as privatization of the Public Sector Units (PSUs) was concerned, disinvestment had been undertaken in the PSUs in the non-strategic areas in the changing economic framework characterized by removal of restrictions on global trade, services and capital. However, protection of the interests of the employees/workers was an integral part of the disinvestment policy and suitable provisions relating to employees' interests were included in the shareholders' agreement signed at the time of disinvestment. Safeguards were provided under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and other labour legislations to protect the interests of the workers affected by closure/ retrenchment.

Replying to the points raised by the members, the Minister said that as regards the question of providing jobs to ten million persons per year, though the Government had not been able to achieve that target, some steps had been taken in that direction. The Government had received the report of the Labour Commission which was appointed to suggest as to how to provide more jobs to the people and what the labour reforms were required for. Similarly, the S.P. Gupta Committee had also suggested as to how to put a check on the dissatisfaction caused by unemployment. The Government had started work in the direction of inter-linking of rivers, which would provide jobs to thousands of people. He pointed out that out of a work force comprising 40 crore workers in the country, nearly 37 crore belonged to the unorganised sector which needed proper attention. The Government intended to introduce a Bill in the Budget session itself for social security in order to remove resentment among workers, which would cover both the unorganized sector as well as the agricultural sector. He emphasized the need for the creation of a harmonious atmosphere between the employer and the employee and said that a Bill on the participation of workers in the management was intended to be introduced by the Government during the Budget Session itself. Regarding the welfare of the construction workers, he said that the Chief Ministers of various States had been asked to constitute welfare boards.

Statement by the Prime Minister on the situation relating to Iraq : On 12 March 2003, the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee made a statement in the House on the situation relating to Iraq. The Prime Minister said that peace and prosperity of the Gulf region was of vital

interest to India, given its long-standing political, cultural and economic ties with the countries of the region. There were over 3.5 million Indians working in the Gulf, whose welfare was of great concern to India and their remittances were an important source of foreign exchange for the country. Over 60 per cent of India's crude oil imports were sourced from the Gulf region and the Gulf countries had also emerged as important destinations for the country's exports.

The Prime Minister said that India recognized the validity of the unanimous decision of the United Nations (UN) Security Council in its Resolution (1441) which provided for the disarmament of Iraq and also reaffirmed the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq, Kuwait and the neighbouring States. It also provided a stringent regime of inspections designed to meet the international community's desire that weapons of mass destruction were eliminated from Iraq. He called upon the international community to consider carefully both the objective of achieving Iraq's compliance with the UN resolutions as well as the means to be adopted to reach that goal, which could be achieved by a collective decision through the United Nations. He emphasized that the Government of India would strongly urge that no military action should be taken that did not have the collective concurrence of the international community.

Replying to the points raised by the members, the Prime Minister said that India felt that there was no scope for unilateral action and the only solution to the Iraq problem was by having it discussed in the UN and not by means of war. Arrangements had been made for bringing back the Indians from Iraq keeping in view the volatility of the situation there and the action of the Government was in the direction of enhancing world peace and preserving the prestige of the country, he concluded.

Statement by the Prime Minister on his visit to Jammu and Kashmir: On 24 April 2003, the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee made a statement in the House on his two-day visit to the State of Jammu and Kashmir on 18 and 19 April 2003. In his statement, the Prime Minister said that he had several programmes in Srinagar. The first one had to do with the foundation stone laying ceremony for modernization of Srinagar airport, which would double its capacity; also, international air services would start from there. The second programme was relating to the launching of the work on the National Highway Development Project, which would provide a four-lane highway from Srinagar to Kanyakumari.

The Prime Minister said that he congratulated the people of the State of Jammu and Kashmir for having participated in large numbers in the State Assembly elections defying the threat of bullets from the terrorists. They were assured that all issues, both domestic and external, would be resolved through talks guided by the three principles of *Insaaniyat* (Humanism), *Jamhooriyat* (Democracy) and *Kashmiriyat* (Kashmir's age-old legacy of Hindu-Muslim amity). He informed that he also had spoken on extending India's hand of friendship to Pakistan, and that both countries should resolve to live together in peace. The last programme was pertaining to the starting of work on the construction of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla railway line. The Government would ensure that train services were started in the Kashmir Valley before 15 August 2007. He stated that unemployment was the biggest problem facing the youth of the State and the Government had decided to facilitate the creation of one lakh employment opportunities in the next two years. For that purpose, a special task force would be set up with representatives from the Union Government, State Government, industry, commerce and banking and financial institutions, that would present its report by 30 June 2003 and implementation would commence from 15 August 2003.

The Prime Minister expressed the hope that a new beginning could take place between India and Pakistan. Stopping of cross-border infiltration and destruction of terrorist infrastructure could open the doors for talks with Pakistan and they could take place on all issues, including Jammu and Kashmir.

Statement by the Prime Minister on Indo-Pak Relations: On 2 May 2003, the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee made a statement in the House on Indo-Pak relations. In his statement, the Prime Minister said that on the evening of 28 April 2003, he had received a telephone call from the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Shri Zafarullah Khan Jamali conveying his appreciation and thanks for his comments made in Srinagar and the remarks about Indo-Pak relations contained in the statement made by him in the two Houses of Parliament. The Prime Minister of Pakistan had also condemned terrorism. The Prime Minister emphasized the need for creating a conducive atmosphere for a sustained dialogue between the two countries, which necessarily required an end to cross border terrorism and the dismantling of its infrastructure. He added that the ways for carrying forward bilateral relations were discussed and the importance of economic cooperation, cultural exchanges, people-to-people contacts and civil aviation links was emphasized. The Prime Minister of Pakistan suggested the resumption of sporting links

between the two countries, which had also been agreed upon. It had been decided to appoint a High Commissioner to Pakistan and to restore the civil aviation links on a reciprocal basis. The significance of substantive progress made on the discussion regarding regional trade and economic cooperation at the Summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) held in Kathmandu was also emphasized and the agreements arrived at there had to be implemented.

Replying to the points raised by the members, the Prime Minister said that all issues concerning Indo-Pak relations would be sorted out on the basis of mutual dialogues. He asserted that the present dialogue with Pakistan would be final and decisive and that would be the last dialogue with that country in his life. He said that terrorism was still continuing, but India wanted to give one more chance to establish peace in the region. After the Kargil war, India had even invited President Musharraf of Pakistan. The Shimla Agreement was the basis for sorting out the issues through bilateral talks. If the proxy war continued, India would formulate a new policy to suit her need as an independent and self-respecting nation. The Prime Minister of Pakistan had invited him to visit Pakistan, but he had not accepted the invitation. India firmly believed that India and Pakistan should live together. India had won the wars but India would also win peace, he concluded.

Discussion on the working of the Ministry of Agriculture: A discussion on the working of the Ministry of Agriculture took place on 21 and 22 April 2003.

Initiating the discussion on 21 April 2003, Shri Rama Shanker Kaushik of the Samajwadi Party criticized the Ministry of Agriculture for ignoring its major objectives, *viz.* to increase agricultural production, to ensure remunerative prices to farmers, and to improve their financial condition. The investment in the agriculture sector over the years had been declining and the subsidies provided in this sector were also being withdrawn. Horticulture would not be of much help unless the country had acquired expertise and facilities in that regard. He wanted to know as to how the opportunities for employment would be created when the small-scale industries were getting closed down. The Ministry of Agriculture should be re-constituted to benefit the farmers, he added.

Participating in the discussion*, Dr. A.R. Kidwai of the Indian

* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashree Ravula Chandra Sekar Reddy, Matilal Sarkar, Suresh Pachouri, R. Kamaraj, J. Chitharanjan, Harendra Singh Malik, Moolchand Meena, H.K. Javare Gowda, Isam Singh, Balkavi Bairagi, Prof. R.B.S. Varma, Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary and Shrimati N.P. Durga

National Congress said that the conditions of farmers were worse than ever before, even though agricultural production had increased four times. Major problems of the agricultural sector relating to the production of sugar, cotton, pulses, fisheries, etc. had not been solved so far. He said that previously banks used to charge low interest rates on the loans refinanced by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) provided to the farmers. However, in the name of liberalization, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had removed the ceiling on the interest rates on such credit being provided to them, resulting in higher interest rates, which should be examined. The Minister of Finance had made a reference to the integrated national market for agriculture, but that had not been done so far. Unless agricultural produce was sold to industries at remunerative prices, the farmers could not get profits, he added.

Prof. M. Sankaralingam (DMK) said that though the agricultural sector provided employment to 56.7 per cent of the country's workforce, the budgetary allocation was not commensurate with the contribution of this sector to the country's economy. Since the major task of re-structuring agriculture fell in the sphere of the State Governments, their financial capability needed to be enhanced by sharing all the taxes of the Union Government with them.

Replying to the discussion on 22 April 2003, the Minister of Agriculture, Shri Ajit Singh said that over the years, land holdings were getting smaller with the average holding, at present, being 1.55 hectares. The role of science and technology had become more important in the field of agriculture than ever before. He pointed out that for maintaining the income of farmers, there was a need for better quality seeds, better methods of irrigation, drip irrigation, sprinkler system, hybrid seeds, biotechnologically and genetically modified seeds, etc.

The Minister informed the House that the Minister of Finance, in his Budget speech, had mentioned that a committee under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh had been formed for better utilization of the subsidy and making drip irrigation more widespread. Parliament had also enacted the Plant Protection Act to protect the interests of Indian farmers. The Kisan Credit Scheme to provide credit to farmers had been a great success. The Justice Kapoor Committee and the Vikhe Patil Committee had suggested as to how the finances of the commercial credit unions could be restructured. The Minister underlined the need for private sector participation in agriculture. The Government had launched the scheme of agri-clinics and agri-business centres which had provided employment opportunities to agriculture graduates. More than three hundred Krishi Vigyan Kendras had been

opened in the country and the Government wanted these Kendras to be well connected through internet with research centers and agricultural universities so that they became service centers to the farmers and provided soil and pesticide testing facilities and other information required by them.

The Minister said that the Government wanted to encourage contract farming to protect the interests of small farmers. The States had to change their cooperative laws for better marketing of agricultural produce. He underlined the need for diversification of the agricultural sector and added that the Government was concerned about the protection of the interests of farmers in the new round of the discussions in the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Discussion on the working of the Ministry of Home Affairs: A discussion on the working of the Ministry of Home Affairs took place on 22 and 23 April 2003.

Initiating the discussion on 22 April 2003, Shri Pranab Mukherjee of the Indian National Congress said that the Union Ministry of Home Affairs was primarily responsible for providing security to the people of the country. However, there was the lack of an adequate and effective instrument to discharge those responsibilities. There were only 145 police personnel for one lakh population. He pointed out that important issues such as cross-border terrorism, insurgent activities, the growing menace of left-wing extremism, and caste and communal conflicts had to be dealt with effectively. He did not agree with the Annual Report of the Ministry of Home Affairs for the year 2002-03 relating to cross-border terrorism, which had stated that India's lone battle of cross-border terrorism had become a global battle. He pointed out that there should be no illusion that some other country would fight India's battle against cross-border terrorism, but we had to fight our own battle. Regarding the modernization of the Police force, he said that it required modern equipment, training and more manpower. The modernization cost was borne, presently, in the ratio of 50 per cent each by the Union Government and the State Government, but the resources of the latter went in meeting the salaries, pension and interest payments. Regarding the problems of the North-East region, he said that the Government should hold discussion with the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) (IM) group in order to bring them back to the national mainstream. He called for the setting up of the Administrative Reforms Commission to prevent the politicization of the Police and the Civil Service for the proper functioning of the democratic structure of the country.

Participating in the discussion*, Shri B.P. Singhal of the Bharatiya Janata Party said that the Ministry of Home Affairs should provide multipurpose identity cards to the people living in the districts of West Bengal, Tripura or any other State bordering Bangladesh. The Union Government's scheme for modernization of prisons had been initiated and a five year non-plan expenditure of Rs.1,800 crore had been earmarked for that purpose. Regarding the politicization of the Police, he expressed the hope that the Minister of Home Affairs would take steps to implement the Dharam Vir Commission's Report to rectify the malady.

Shrimati Sarla Maheshwari (CPI-M) criticized the Government for its failure to contain the problems of communalism, casteism, terrorism, atrocities on minorities, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, delay in the justice delivery system, and for passing anti-democratic legislations such as the POTA. She underlined the need for restoring confidence in the people of Kashmir and hoped that the Prime Minister's visit to the State would help in bringing normalcy there.

Replying to the discussion on 23 April 2003, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri L.K. Advani said that maintenance of internal security was the responsibility of the Ministry of Home Affairs. In 2000, the Prime Minister had constituted a Group of Ministers to consider various aspects of national security which submitted its report to the Prime Minister and Parliament in 2001. He said that out of 94 actionable recommendations on internal security relating to the Ministry of Home Affairs, action in respect of 67 recommendations had been completed, which *inter alia* included proposals regarding preparation of a National Register of Citizens and the issuance of identity cards to each and every citizen. He agreed that the paramilitary forces should be enhanced and modernized, as they were deployed not only for security purposes but also for the conduct of elections. The proposal for giving arms, vehicles, surveillance and communication equipment, etc. instead of giving money to the States for modernization of the Police, as recommended by the Review Committee, had also been accepted. He also agreed that the dialogue between the Government and various groups of the NSCN in Nagaland, who felt outside the mainstream, should continue. Terrorism in the State

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* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashree Ravula Chandra Sekar Reddy, Matilal Sarkar, Suresh Pachouri, R. Kamaraj, J. Chitharanjan, Harendra Singh Malik, Moolchand Meena, H.K. Javare Gowda, Isam Singh, Balkavi Bairagi, Prof. R.B.S. Varma, Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary and Shrimati N.P. Durga

of Jammu and Kashmir was primarily sponsored by Pakistan and did not have a local component. He emphasized that India continued to be wedded to the ideals of securalism and democracy and firmly rejected theocracy and autocracy. Pakistan, on the other hand, had continued to stick to its own self-definition even after its partition in 1971, and its false and delusive claims on Kashmir.

Discussion on the working of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology: A discussion on the working of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology took place on 24 and 25 April 2003.

Initiating the discussion on 24 April 2003, Shri Nilotpal Basu of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) said that in order to meet the targets in terms of increasing tele-density in the country, the resources available with the Department of Telecommunications were not adequate. Therefore, the policy was formulated to ensure private investment for bridging the resource gap. Though the private sector's contribution to the overall communications network had increased by almost twenty per cent, its contribution to the village public telephones was only one per cent. The national tele-density of the country was claimed to be around 4.9, whereas rural tele-density had remained at 1.3 only. He said that sixty-five per cent of India's population lived in the villages and unless the benefits of technologies and development reached those sections of society, the country's progress would be hampered. Therefore, private sector investment had to be consistent with the overall objective of transforming the Indian society, economy and overall growth of the country's potential. For the proper development of information technology in India, emphasis had to be placed on e-governance, e-development and the integration of different sections of our society who were not a part of the mainstream of development.

Participating in the discussion*, Shri S.S. Chandran of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam said that as per the telecom policy, telephone connections were to be provided to all villages by the year 2002. He urged that post offices should be set up in *Gram Panchayats* in the country and steps should be taken to develop software in Indian languages to reap the benefits of the information technology.

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* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashree Prithviraj Chavan, Balbir K. Punj, K. Rama Mohana Rao, Shahid Siddiqui, Ashwani Kumar, S. Viduthalai Virumbi, Gandhi Azad, K.B. Krishna Murthy, Drupad Borgohain, Shankar Roy Chowdhury, Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma, Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary and Prof. Saif-ud-Din Soz

Shri Suresh Bhardwaj (BJP) said that private sector companies did not serve villages, whereas the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) catered to the needs of the villages to fulfil its social obligations. Therefore, special facilities were required to be given to the BSNL so that it could move forward rapidly in the direction of expanding the telephone network in the villages. He urged the Government to make available public telephones in the villages of Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal and the North-East region through satellite exchange, microwave exchange or Wireless in Local Loop (WLL).

Replying to the discussion on 25 April 2003, the Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Shri Arun Shourie said that the export of information technology (IT) and electronics were over Rs.54,000 crore and it had been growing by forty-two per cent per year at compound rates for the last five years, which was a remarkable achievement. India was among the five countries in the world to put satellites in space and to put together the 'Super Param', the fourth generation of super computers. He underlined the need for speeding up the expansion of rural telephone services through adoption of new technologies which would benefit the common people. He said that the Ministry of Information Technology and the Government had set up a Working Group each on Cyber Law and Cyber Forensics, Critical Infrastructure Protection; Cyber Security Assurance; and Cyber Security Education and Awareness to tackle the dangers resulting from the misuse of information technology. An Indian Computer Emergency Response Scheme was set up in two places in India with specialists to deal with such matters. He emphasized the need for enlarging the domestic market for IT and telecommunications so that production was started in the country, and it did not depend on other countries in that regard. The State Governments of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh had set up hardware technology parks for tackling the problem of hardware in IT and telecommunications, he added.

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2003:* Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill on 27 February 2003, the Minister of Law and Justice and Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Arun Jaitley said that the objective of the Bill was to enable the Armed Forces personnel and various categories governed by the Bill to vote by proxy.

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* The Bill, as passed by the Lok Sabha, was laid on the Table on 21 February 2003

Replying to the debate*, the Minister said that there was a genuine concern among all sections to see that the security personnel were not denied their right to vote. Practical experience had shown that there was no alternative to the postal ballot system that was being followed, due to which many of the security personnel were not able to exercise their right to vote. Therefore, it was felt that there was no option left but to experiment the new system of allowing them to vote through the system of proxy. The proxy voting system had been tried in at least ten countries for different categories of voters.

The motion for consideration of the Bill, clauses etc. were adopted and the Bill was passed.

*The Customs Tariff (Amendment) Bill, 2003**: Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill on 10 March 2003, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance and Company Affairs, Shri Gingee N. Ramachandran said that the Bill sought to replace the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003 which was promulgated in January 2003 for bringing tariffs under one common code. The Bill had been introduced for having uniformity in the Government classification codes prevailing for customs tariff and commercial purposes, which were adopted by the Department of Commerce and also by international organizations to expand the six digit classification code into eight digit classification code. There had been a demand from the trade and industry for adoption of a common commodity classification code based on the internationally adopted Harmonised System of Nomenclature to be used for all trade-related transactions to facilitate international and domestic trade. The Department of Commerce had adopted the eight-digit code in order to harmonise the commodities in one code, which would reduce the transit cost.

Replying to the debate**, the Minister said that the Department of Revenue, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade and the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Sales Tax Departments of various State Governments and the Central Statistics Organisation had been consulted on the common classification code. The introduction of the common classification code would give more flexibility to various

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* Those who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Hansraj Bhardwaj, Bachani Lekhraj, Ravula Chandra Sekar Reddy, R. Shunmugasundaram, Lalu Prasad, V.V. Raghavan, Shankar Roy Chowdhury, Prof. Saif-ud-Din Soz and Shrimati Sarla Maheshwari

* The Bill, as passed by the Lok Sabha, was laid on the Table on 4 March 2003

** Those who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Pranab Mukherjee, B.P. Apte, C.O. Poulose, C.P. Thirunavukkarasu and Satish Pradhan

categories and facilitate trade and industry; the importers would also be able to import easily. It would further simplify the import procedures and documentation for all trade-related transactions.

The motion for consideration of the Bill, Clauses etc. were adopted and the Bill was returned to Lok Sabha on the same day.

The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2001:* Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill on 8 April 2003, the Minister of Law and Justice and Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Arun Jaitley said that the thrust of the Bill related to two special aspects with regard to the procedure for elections to the Council of States (Rajya Sabha). Since 1951, there had been a firm system wherein to be eligible under section 3 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 for contesting an election to the Rajya Sabha, one had to be an elector of that State, and under section 19 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, in order to be an elector of that State, he had to be ordinarily resident in that State. He said that several features of the functioning of the election system had come to notice and in a large number of cases, representatives from various States had elected a person who was not resident in that State, to the Rajya Sabha, but for the purposes of election to the Rajya Sabha, got enrolled as elector in that particular State. Several arguments had been given by various political parties as to why the system required to be changed. He said that the second proposal of the Bill was to bring about a change in the methodology of voting which would be by an open ballot as far as the elections to the Rajya Sabha were concerned. The Bill was referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs which, however, could not come to a firm recommendation. After considering the recommendations of the Standing Committee and the various views expressed in that regard, the Government was of the view that it was necessary to change both the residential requirement which was a prerequisite for being elected to the Rajya Sabha, and also the methodology of voting as far as election to the Rajya Sabha was concerned.

Replying to the debate[§], the Minister said that the Government was seeking to change the residential qualification that was contained in Section 3 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, required for

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* The Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 5 December 2001

§ Those who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Pranab Mukherjee, B.P. Singhal, Nilotpal Basu, Kapil Sibal, N. Jothi, C.P. Thirunavukkarasu, Satish Pradhan, Fali S. Nariman, N.K. Premachandran, Shankar Roy Chowdhury, Cho. S. Ramaswamy and Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary

contesting election to the Rajya Sabha. Various political parties, other related agencies and the Election Commission had been consulted on the matter. The larger flexibility in the election to the Rajya Sabha would also be in the interest of both federalism and composite representation. Regarding the change in the methodology of voting from secret to open ballot, he said that because of the secrecy of vote, it had been observed that a trend had started whereby large amounts of money were being offered to the legislators in the States to vote against the candidates of their parties. Therefore, what was sought to be checked through the amendment was not the indiscipline in a political party but to curb the tendency of getting bribed. Political parties, the Election Commission and Chief Ministers of States would be consulted before the rules were framed as to how the open ballot would actually be conducted. The procedure relating to openness of ballot would be determined by the regulations which were framed under the Act.

The motion for consideration of the Bill, Clauses etc. were adopted and the Bill, as amended, was passed.

The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill, 2001:* Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill on 9 April 2003, the Minister of Health and Family Welfare and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj said that the need for a legislation to prohibit advertising and regulation of production, supply and distribution of cigarettes and tobacco products was recommended by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Subordinate Legislation of the Tenth Lok Sabha in 1995. Keeping in view that recommendation, the Government had introduced the Bill in the Rajya Sabha on 7 March 2001. The Bill was referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development and the recommendations of the Committee had been incorporated in the Bill. She said that tobacco was universally regarded as one of the major public health hazards and was responsible for an estimated eight lakh deaths annually in the country. It had also been found that the treatment of tobacco related diseases and the loss of productivity caused therein cost the Government almost Rs.13,500 crore annually. The first important amendment that was included in the Bill was that earlier it was confined to cigarettes only but now it included not only cigarettes but also other tobacco products and that would be applicable all over India. The

* The Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 7 March 2001

second amendment which had been incorporated in the Bill was that the warning, "Cigarette smoking is injurious to health", was given in English or Hindi languages. Now, the warning would be given in all regional languages and that would be depicted through picture also. Under another amendment in the Bill, the sale of tobacco products within the perimeter of hundred yards of a school had been banned.

Replying to the debate[§], the Minister said the Government was banning completely both direct and indirect advertisements and sponsorship of sports events. There was no threat to the employment of the tobacco-growers or the bidi-workers as the Government was not putting a blanket ban on the manufacture of tobacco products. It was concerned about the tobacco growers. A survey in consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture in that regard was conducted as to what alternative crops could be grown on the land where tobacco was presently being grown. It was also examined whether any medicinal plants and other cash crops could be grown on that land so that the tobacco growers could be advised accordingly.

The motion for consideration of the Bill, Clauses etc. were adopted and the Bill, as amended, was passed.

C. QUESTION HOUR

During the Session, 13,894 notices of Questions (12,835 Starred and 1,059 Unstarred) were received. Out of these, 700 Questions were admitted as Starred and 5,261 as Unstarred. The total number of notices of Questions received in Hindi was 2,716.

Daily average of Questions: For all the days, the lists of Starred Questions contained 20 questions. On an average, 8.71 Questions were orally answered per sitting. The maximum number of Questions orally answered was fifteen on 9 May 2003 and the minimum number of Questions orally answered was five on 8 May 2003. The list of Unstarred Questions contained 101, 80, 135 and 140 Questions on 18, 19, 20 and 25 February 2003, respectively, and on the rest of the days, it contained 155 Questions each. There was no Question Hour on 7 April 2003 due to obituary references and reference regarding killing of innocent people at Nadi Marg in Pulwama district of the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

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§ Those who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Maulana Obaidullah Khan Azmi, Ajay Maroo, S.M. Laljan Basha, C.P. Thirunavukkarasu, Satish Pradhan, Dr. Karan Singh, Shrimati Savita Sharda, Shrimati Chandra Kala Pandey, Shrimati S.G. Indira, Shrimati Kum Kum Rai and Miss Mabel Rebello

Half-an-Hour Discussion: Ten notices of Half-an-Hour Discussion were received, out of which one notice was admitted and discussed.

Short Notice Question: Three Short Notice Questions were received, but none was admitted.

D. OBITUARY REFERENCES

During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Sarvashri Devendra Prasad Singh, Harbans Rai Bachchan, Kamal Nath Jha, Krishna Chandra Panda, Sudhakar Pandey, Gundappa Korwar and Shrimati Annapurna Devi Thimmareddy, all former members. Members stood in silence as a mark of respect to the deceased.

STATE LEGISLATURES

ARUNACHAL PRADESH*

The Third Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Ninth Session on 18 February 2003, was adjourned *sine die* on 5 March 2003. There were four sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: This being the First Session of the year, the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh addressed the House on 18 February 2003. The discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address was moved on 3 March 2003, in which seven members participated. The motion was adopted after the reply by the Chief Minister, Shri Mukut Mithi on the same day.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following bills were passed by the House: (i) The Arunachal Pradesh Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2003; (ii) The Arunachal Pradesh Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Bill, 2003; and (iii) The Arunachal Pradesh Local Authorities (Prohibition of Defection) Bill, 2003.

Financial business: The Chief Minister, Shri Mukut Mithi, who is also in charge of the Ministry of Finance, presented the Supplementary

Demands for Grants for the year 2002-2003 and Budget Estimates for the year 2003-2004. The Supplementary Demands for the year 2002-2003 and the Demands for Grants for 2003-2004 relating to various Departments were also moved by the concerned Ministers and were passed by the House without amendment. Thereafter, the concerned Appropriation Bills were also introduced, considered and passed.

ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

The Eleventh Assam Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Fifth Session on 26 February 2003, was adjourned *sine die* on 8 April 2003. There were 23 sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Assam addressed the House on 26 February 2003. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address was moved by Dr. Haren Das and seconded by Shri Idris Ali. The motion was adopted after debate and discussion in the House.

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* Material contributed by the Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly Secretariat
** Material contributed by the Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat

Legislative business: During the Session, the following Bills were passed by the House: (i) The Assam State Commission for Minorities Bill, 2003; (ii) The Assam Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 2003; (iii) The Guwahati Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2003; (iv) The Assam General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2003; (v) The Assam Value Added Tax Bill, 2003; (vi) The Assam Electricity Bill, 2003; (vii) The Bodoland Autonomous Council (Repeal) Bill, 2003; (viii) The Assam Entry Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2003; (ix) The Assam Agricultural Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2003; (x) The Assam Amusements and betting Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2003; (xi) The Assam Professions, Trade, Callings and Employments Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 2003; (xii) The Assam Ministers', Ministers of State and Deputy Ministers Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 2003; (xiii) The Assam Speaker's Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 2003; (xiv) The Assam Deputy Speaker's Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 2003; (xv) The Salary and Allowances of the Leader of Opposition in the Assam Legislative Assembly (Amendment) Bill, 2003; and (xvi) The Assam Legislative Assembly Members' Salaries, Allowances and Pensions (Amendment) Bill, 2003.

Financial business: The Minister of State for Finance, Shri Nilamani Sen Deka presented before the House the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2002-2003 on 28 February 2003, and the Annual Financial Statements (Budget Estimates) of the Government of Assam for the year 2003-2004 on 10 March 2003. The General Discussion on the Budget was held for three days and it was passed by the House on 29 March 2003. The Assam Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2003; The Assam Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2003; The Assam Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2003; The Assam Appropriation (No.4) Bill, 2003; The Assam Appropriation (No.5) Bill, 2003; The Assam Appropriation (No.6) Bill, 2003; and The Assam Appropriation (No.7) Bill, 2003 were introduced and passed by the House after consideration and deliberation in the House on 6 March, 29 March and 31 March 2003.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri Rathis Ranjan Choudhury, MLA; Shri Padma Nath Sarma, freedom fighter; Shri Nripen Goswami, former member of Parliament; Shri Biren Borkotoky, Medini Choudhury, Dr. Hari Buchan Rai, Shri Ramcharan Brahma, all litterateurs; Shri Bhuban Ch. Handique, historian; Dr. Sarbeswar Rajguru, historian and litterateur; Shri Trailokya Nath Sarma, Shri Pulin Behari Borthakur, both journalists; Pratima Pandey Baruah, folk singer; Smt. Aideo Handique, actress; Shri Sarat Majumdar, dramatist; Shri Jadu Borpujari, dramatist and educationist; Shri Bhabesh Sanyal, artist; Prafulla Hazarika, sportsman; and Junumoni Saikia, athelete.

Tributes were also paid to Smt. Kalpana Chawla, the first ever women astronaut of Indian origin who lost her life along with six other crew on board the Columbia Space Shuttle.

CHHATTISGARH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Sixth Session on 17 February 2003, was adjourned *sine die* on 28 March 2003. There were 22 sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Chhattisgarh, Shri Dinesh Nandan Sahaya addressed the House on 17 February 2003. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address was moved by Shri Domendra Bhendiya, and seconded by Shri Ghanaram Sahu. The Motion of Thanks was discussed for three days, *i.e.* on 21, 24 and 25 February 2003 and was adopted by the House on 25 February 2003.

Legislative business: During the Session, 15 Bills were introduced and passed by the House.

Financial business: On 19 February 2003, the Finance Minister, Shri Ramchandra Singhdev introduced the Second Supplementary Demands for the year 2002-2003 which were passed by the House on 20 February 2003 after a brief discussion.

On 25 March 2003, the Finance Minister introduced the Chhattisgarh

Appropriation Bill (No.2), 2003. The Bill was considered and passed by the House on 26 March 2003.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Sarvashri Ganesh Ram Anant, Sishu Pal Shah, and Hulas Ram Manahar, all former Members of the undivided Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha. Tributes were also paid to first ever woman astronaut of Indian origin, Smt. Kalpana Chawla, eminent litterateur Dr. Harivanshrai Bachchan, and noted writer, Dr. Shivmangal Singh Suman.

DELHI LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

The Second Delhi Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Sixteenth Session on 17 March 2003, was adjourned *sine die* on 7 April 2003. There were 14 sittings in all.

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* Material contributed by the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly Secretariat

** Material contributed by the Delhi Legislative Assembly Secretariat

Address by the Lt. Governor: The Lt. Governor of Delhi, Shri Vijai Kapoor addressed the House on 17 March 2003. The Motion of Thanks to the Lt. Governor for his Address was discussed for four days in which 23 members participated. The House adopted the Motion of Thanks on 3 April 2003.

Legislative business: During the Session, besides the Delhi Appropriation Bills, 2003, the following Bills were considered and passed by the House: (i) The Salary and Allowances of Chief Whip in the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi Bill, 2003; (ii) The Industrial Disputes (Delhi Amendment) Bill, 2003; (iii) The Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2003; (iv) The Ministers of the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi (Salaries and Allowances) (Amendment) Bill, 2003; and (v) The Delhi Prisons (Amendment) Bill, 2003.

Financial business: The Finance Minister presented the annual Budget for the year 2003-2004 on 25 March 2003. The debate on the Budget was held from 26 to 28 March 2003 in which seventeen members participated. The Budget was passed on 28 March 2003.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Sarvashri Babu Ram Solanki, Nand Lal Choudhary, Inder Mohan Bhardwaj, Manohar Lal Khurana and Dr. Vashisht Kumar Pushkarna, all former Metropolitan Councillors; Smt. Kalpana Chawla, first Indian woman astronaut and Shri Brij Mohan, veteran freedom fighter and political leader. On 24 March 2003, tributes were paid to the freedom fighters on the occasion of the *Shahidi Diwas.* On 25 March 2003, obituary references were made to those who lost their lives in the terrorist attack at Nandimarg in Jammu and Kashmir.

GOA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Fourth Goa Legislative Assembly, which commenced its First Session on 7 February 2003, was adjourned *sine die* on 14 February 2003. The House was prorogued by the Governor on 20 February 2003. There were five sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: This being the First Session of the year, the Governor of Goa, Shri Kidar Nath Sahani addressed the House on 7 February 2003. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address was moved in the House on 10 February 2003. The discussion on the Motion of Thanks was held for three days in which 14 members participated.

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* Material contributed by the Goa Legislative Assembly Secretariat

31 Amendments to the Motion of Thanks moved by five members were negatived and the Motion was adopted after a reply by the Chief Minister on 13 February 2003.

Legislative business: Apart from the Goa Appropriation Bill 2003, the following Bills were passed by the House: (i) The Goa Tax on Luxuries (Amendment) Bill, 2003; (ii) The Goa Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2003; (iii) The Goa Panchayat Raj (Seventh Amendment) Bill, 2003; (iv) The Goa Salary and Allowances of Ministers (Amendment) Bill, 2003; and (v) The Goa Salary Allowances and Pension of Members of the Legislative Assembly (Amendment) Bill, 2003.

Financial business: On 13 February 2003, the Second Batch of the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2002-2003 and the connected Appropriation Bill, 2003 were passed by the House.

Obituary References: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of eminent jurist *Padma Vibhushan* Shri Nani A. Palkhivala and Smt. Kalpana Chawla, the first woman astronaut of Indian origin who lost her life along with six other crew on board the Columbia Space Shuttle. Tributes were also paid to Shri Vaikunth Dattaram Kuncolienkar, a noted Goan cinematographer.

HIMACHAL PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Tenth Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, which was constituted on 4 March 2003, commenced its First Session on 10 March 2003 and was adjourned *sine die* on 27 March 2003. The House was prorogued by the Governor the same day. There were six sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Himachal Pradesh, Shri Suraj Bhan addressed the House on 11 March 2003. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address was moved by Shri Harsh Wardhan on 24 March 2003 and seconded by Shri Jagjivan Pal. The discussion on the Motion of Thanks was held for four days in which 30 members participated. The amendments moved by one member were withdrawn while another set of amendments by a second member was negatived and the Motion was adopted.

Financial business: The Supplementary Budget (First and Final Batch) for the year 2002-2003 and the Vote on Account for the year 2003-04 were presented on 24 and 26 March 2003, respectively, and were passed

by the House without any discussion. The relevant Appropriation Bills were also passed by the House on the same day.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Sarvashri Pratap Chaudhary, Hitender Sen, Balak Ram and Dasondhi Ram, all former members of the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly.

KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Eleventh Karnataka Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Sixth Session on 27 February 2003, was adjourned *sine die* on 31 March 2003. There were 21 sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Karnataka, Shri T.N. Chaturvedi addressed members of the two Houses assembled together on 27 February 2003. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address was moved and adopted by the House after discussion on 20 March 2003.

Legislative business: During the Session, 28 bills were passed by the House.

Financial business: The Chief Minister, Shri S.M. Krishna, who is also in charge of the Ministry of Finance, presented the Budget for the year 2003-2004 on 21 March 2003. 28 members participated in the General Discussion on the Budget. The Chief Minister replied to the General Discussion on 28 March 2003. The Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2003 and other Financial Bills were passed on the same day. Supplementary Estimates for the year 2002-2003 (Final Instalment) were also passed.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of the former Lok Sabha member Shri B.M. Menasinakai; Shri Te. Hanumanthappa, former Secretary of the Karnataka Legislature, Smt. Kalpana Chawla, the first Indian woman astronaut and Smt. Pandaribai, film actress.

KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

The Ninety-eighth Session of the Karnataka Legislative Council, which commenced on 27 February 2003, was adjourned *sine die* on 31 March 2003. There were 21 sittings in all.

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* Material contributed by the Karnataka Legislative Assembly Secretariat
** Material contributed by the Karnataka Legislative Council Secretariat

Legislative business: During the Session, 3 bills were considered and passed by the House. A Bill laid on the Table of the House in the pervious Session was also passed. Nineteen Bills as passed by the Legislative Assembly were laid on the Table and considered and passed by the Legislative Council.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri B.M. Menasinakai, former member of Parliament and former member of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly; Shri K.R. Srinivasan, former member of Karnataka Legislative Assembly,

Shri T.A. Rangaiah, former member of the Karnataka Legislative Council, Smt. Pandaribai, film actress; Smt. Kalpana Chawla, astronaut; and Shri Te. Hanumanthappa, former Secretary of the Karnataka Legislature. Tributes were also paid to Pandit R.V. Sheshadri Gavai.

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Eleventh Kerala Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Fifth Session on 24 January 2003, was adjourned *sine die* on 18 March 2003. There were 20 sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Kerala, Shri Sikander Bakht addressed the House on 24 January 2003. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address was discussed for 3 days. In all, nineteen members moved amendments on the Motion of Thanks. The House rejected all the amendments and adopted the Motion on 30 January 2003 after a reply by the Chief Minister, Shri A.K. Antony.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following Bills were passed: (i) The Kerala Court Fees and Suits Valuation (Amendment) Bill, 2002; (ii) The Kerala General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2002; (iii) The Kerala Value Added Sales Tax Bill, 2002; (iv) The Abkari (Amendment) Bill, 2003; (v) The Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit (Amendment) Bill, 2003; (vi) The Kerala Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2003; and (vii) The Kerala Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2003.

Financial business: The House assembled on 14 March 2003, for the Budget presentation. The Opposition then raised the Muthanga issue relating to the police action against the adivasis who occupied reserved forests. When Shri K. Sankaranarayanan, Minister for Finance and Excise, commenced his Budget speech, the Opposition members exhibited placards, banners and shouted slogans. In the midst of the bedlam, the Finance

* Material contributed by the Kerala Legislative Council Secretariat

Minister was forced to conclude his speech. On 17 March 2003, the same sequence of events was repeated in the House and the Final Supplementary Demands for Grants were passed without discussion. On 18 March 2003, at the commencement of the sitting, the Opposition again disrupted the proceedings. Thereupon, the Chief Minister moved a motion to dispense with the Budget discussion and to consider the Appropriation Bills and to pass Vote on Account without discussion. The House adopted the motion by voice vote, completed all business and the House was adjourned *sine die*.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Sarvashri D. Damodaran Potti, former Speaker of the Kerala Legislative Assembly; K.K. Thomas, S. Govinda Kurup, B.V. Seethithangal, G. Gopinatha Pillai, G.P. Thampi, N. Chandreskhara Kurup and N.K. Kunjikrishnan Nair, all former members of the Kerala Legislative Assembly; Sarvashri C.K. Viswanathan, K.J. Thomas and K.M. George, all members of the Travancore-Cochin Legislative Assembly; and Shri K. Balakrishna Menon, former member of Sree Moolam Assembly.

MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Eighth Manipur Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Fifth Session on 11 March 2003, was adjourned *sine die* on 17 March 2003. There were 5 sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Manipur, Shri Ved Prakash Marwah addressed the House on 11 March 2003. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address was moved by Shri Debendra Singh and seconded by Shri Manga Vaiphei.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following Bills were passed by the House: (i) The Manipur Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2003; (ii) The Manipur Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2003; (iii) The Manipur Public Demand Recovery Bill, 2003; and (iv) The Manipur Hill Areas (House Tax) (Second Amendment) Bill, 2003.

Financial business: The Chief Minister Shri O. Ibobi Singh, who is also in charge of the Ministry of Finance, presented the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2002-2003 and the Budget Estimates for the year 2003-2004 on 11 March 2003. He also moved the motion for Vote on Accounts, 2003 on the same day. The General Discussion and discussion and voting on the Supplementary Demands for Grants,

* Material contributed by the Manipur Legislative Assembly Secretariat

2003 and discussion and voting on the Motion for Vote on Accounts, 2003 were held on 14 March 2003. Both were passed without any discussion amidst a walk out by the Opposition in protest against the non-admittance of any cut motions by the Speaker on the ground that these motions were incomplete, not in order and not specific.

MIZORAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Fourth Mizoram Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Fourteenth Session on 18 March 2003, was adjourned *sine die* on 28 March 2003. There were nine sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Mizoram, Shri Amolak Rattan Kohli addressed the House on 18 March 2003. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address was moved and discussed on 19 March 2003. The House adopted the Motion after a reply by the Chief Minister, Shri Zoramthanga.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following Bills were passed by the House: (i) The Mizoram (Land Survey and Settlement Operation) Bill, 2003; (ii) The Mizoram Education Bill, 2003; (iii) The Mizoram Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2003; (iv) The Mizoram Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2003; and (v) The Mizoram Co-operation Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2003.

Financial business: On 24 March 2003, the Chief Minister, who is also in charge of the Ministry of Finance, presented to the House, the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2002-2003 and the Vote on Accounts and Annual Financial Statement for 2003-2004, with allied papers. The General Discussion on the Budget commenced on the same day which was concluded the same day. The Budget was passed on 28 March 2003.

* Material contributed by the Mizoram Legislative Assembly Secretariat

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APPENDIX I

STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTED DURING THE TWELFTH SESSION OF THE THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA

1.	PERIOD OF THE SESSION	17 February 2003 to 9 May 2003 (recess from 14 March 2003 to 6 April 2003)
2.	NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD	37
3.	TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING HOURS	239 Hours and 42 minutes
4.	GOVERNMENT BILLS	
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	30
	(ii) Introduced	27
	(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by Rajya Sabha	4
	(iv) Returned by the Rajya Sabha with any amendment/ recommendation and laid on the Table	1
	(v) Reported by Standing Committees	2
	(vi) Referred to Departmentally-related Standing Committees by Speaker/Chairman, Rajya Sabha	3
	(vii) Discussed	26
	(viii) Passed	26
	(ix) Withdrawn	2
	(x) Returned by Rajya Sabha without any recommendation	11 Money Bills
	(xi) Pending at the end of the Session	34
5.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS	
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	267
	(ii) Introduced	19
	(iii) Discussed	3
	(iv) Withdrawn	2
	(v) Part-discussed	1
	(vi) Removed from the Register of pending bills	4
	(vii) Pending at the end of the Session	280
6.	NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 184	
	(i) Notices received	456
	(ii) Admitted	82
7.	NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED UNDER RULE 377	373
8.	NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED ON URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE DURING ZERO HOUR	255
9.	NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 193 (Matters of Urgent Public Importance)	
	(i) Notices received	280
	(ii) Admitted	6

(iii) Discussions held	4
(iv) Part-discussed	2
10. NUMBER OF STATEMENTS MADE UNDER RULE 197 (Calling Attention of Matters of Urgent Public Importance)	13
11. STATEMENTS MADE BY MINISTERS UNDER RULE 372	19
12. STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS	
(i) Notices received	7
(ii) Admitted	2
(iii) Moved	2
(iv) Adopted	1
(v) Negatived	Nil
(vi) Withdrawn	1
13. RESOLUTION PLACED BEFORE THE HOUSE BY SPEAKER	1
14. GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS	
(i) Notices received	2
(ii) Admitted	2
(iii) Moved	1
(iv) Adopted	1
15. PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS	
(i) Received	9
(ii) Admitted	9
(iii) Discussed	3
(iv) Adopted	1
(v) Withdrawn	1
(vi) Part-discussed	1
16. GOVERNMENT MOTIONS	
(i) Notices received	1
(ii) Admitted	1
(iii) Discussed	Nil
17. PRIVATE MEMBER'S MOTIONS	
(i) Notices received	455
(ii) Admitted	81
(iii) Moved	Nil
(vi) Consent withheld by Speaker outside the House	49
18. TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED DURING THE SESSION	16,582
19. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED ON ANY SINGLE DAY AND THE DATE ON WHICH ISSUED	908 issued on 12.3.2003
20. TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED	
(i) Starred	702*
(ii) Unstarred	6,936
(iii) Short Notice Questions	Nil
(iv) Half-an-hour discussions	3
21. NUMBER OF MEMBERS GRANTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE	8
22. PETITIONS PRESENTED	1

23. NUMBER OF NEW MEMBERS SWORN IN, WITH DATE — One (on 27 February 2003)

24. NUMBER OF PRIVILEGE MOTIONS

(i) Notices received	28
(ii) Brought before the House	Nil
(iii) Consent withheld by Speaker	22
(iv) Observation made by Speaker	6**

25. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Sl. No.	Name of the Committee	No. of sittings held during the period 1 January to 31 March 2003	No. of Reports presented
1	2	3	4
i)	Business Advisory Committee	4	3
ii)	Committee on Absence of Members	1	1
iii)	Committee on Public Undertakings	2	—
iv)	Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	—	—
v)	Committee on Petitions	7	2
vi)	Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions	2	2
vii)	Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	4	2
viii)	Committee on Privileges	—	—
ix)	Committee on Government Assurances	2	1
x)	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	2	—
xi)	Estimates Committee	—	—
xii)	General Purposes Committee	—	—
xiii)	House Committee		
	a) Accommodation Sub-Committee	—	—
	b) Sub-Committee on Amenities	—	—
xiv)	Public Accounts Committee	6	5 (Original) 1 (Action Taken)
xv)	Railway Convention Committee	—	—
xvi)	Rules Committee	—	—
xvii)	Committee on Ethics	—	-
xviii)	Committee on the Empowerment of women	5	2 (Action Taken)
xix)	Committee on Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)	1	—
	JOINT/SELECT COMMITTEES		
i)	Joint Committee on Offices of Profit	2	—
	STANDING COMMITTEE		
i)	Committee on Agriculture	—	—
ii)	Committee on Communications	—	—
iii)	Committee on Defence	4	—
iv)	Committee on Energy	8	6
v)	Committee on External Affairs	—	—
vi)	Committee on Finance	9	—

vii)	Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution	3	—
viii)	Committee on Labour and Welfare	—	—
ix)	Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals	—	—
x)	Committee on Railways	—	—
xi)	Committee on Urban and Rural Development	11	6 (Action Taken)

APPENDIX II

STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTED DURING THE ONE HUNDRED AND NINTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE RAJYA SABHA

1.	PERIOD OF THE SESSION	17 February 2003 to 13 March 2003 and 7 April 2003 to 9 May 2003
2.	NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD	37
3.	TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTINGS HOURS	181 Hours and 21 minutes
4.	NUMBER OF DIVISIONS HELD	11
5.	GOVERNMENT BILLS	
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	27
	(ii) Introduced	9
	(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by the Lok Sabha	23*
	(iv) Returned by the Lok Sabha with any amendment	Nil
	(v) Referred to Select Committee by the Rajya Sabha	Nil
	(vi) Referred to Joint Committee by the Rajya Sabha	Nil
	(vii) Referred to the Department-related Standing Committees	2**
	(viii) Reported by Select Committee	Nil
	(ix) Reported by Joint Committee	Nil
	(x) Reported by the Department-related Standing Committees	3
	(xi) Discussed	27
	(xii) Passed	24
	(xiii) Withdrawn	1
	(xiv) Negatived	Nil
	(xv) Part-discussed	Nil
	(xvi) Returned by the Rajya Sabha without any recommendation	11
	(xvii) Discussion postponed	2

* The Airport Authority of India Bill, 2003 was bulletinised

** Bills introduced in the Lok Sabha namely: (i) The Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill, 2003; ana (ii) The Constitution (Ninety-seventh Amendment) Bill, 2003

(xviii) Pending at the end of the Session	34
6. PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS	
(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	139
(ii) Introduced	31
(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by the Lok Sabha	Nil
(iv) Returned by the Lok Sabha with any amendment and laid on the Table	Nil
(v) Reported by Joint Committee	Nil
(vi) Discussed	1
(vii) Withdrawn	Nil
(viii) Passed	Nil
(ix) Negatived	Nil
(x) Circulated for eliciting opinion	Nil
(xi) Part-discussed	1
(xii) Discussion postponed	Nil
(xiii) Motion for circulation of Bill negatived	Nil
(xiv) Referred to Select Committee	Nil
(xv) Lapsed due to retirement/death of Member-in-charge of the Bill	4
(xvi) Pending at the end of the Session	166
7. NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 176 (Matters of Urgent Public Importance)	
(i) Notices received	223
(ii) Admitted	44 (on 4 subjects)
(iii) Discussions held	4
NUMBER OF STATEMENTS MADE UNDER RULE 180 (Calling Attention to Matters of Urgent Public Importance)	
8. STATEMENTS MADE BY MINISTERS	3
9. HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSIONS HELD	1
10. STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS	
(i) Notices received	6 (on one subject)
(ii) Admitted	6
(iii) Moved	1
(iv) Adopted	1
(v) Negatived	Nil
(vi) Withdrawn	Nil
11. GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS	
(i) Notices received	5
(ii) Admitted	5

(iii) Moved	4
(iv) Adopted	4
12. PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS	
(i) Received	12
(ii) Admitted	12
(iii) Discussed	2
(iv) Withdrawn	2
(v) Negatived	Nil
(vi) Adopted	Nil
(vii) Part-discussed	Nil
(viii) Discussion postponed	Nil
13. GOVERNMENT MOTIONS	
(i) Notices received	2
(ii) Admitted	2
(iii) Moved	1
(iv) Adopted	1
(v) Part-discussed	Nil
14. PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS	
(i) Received	219
(ii) Admitted	202
(iii) Moved	Nil
(iv) Adopted	Nil
(v) Part-discussed	Nil
(vi) Negatived	Nil
(vii) Withdrawn	Nil
15. MOTIONS REGARDING MODIFICATION OF STATUTORY RULE	
(i) Received	Nil
(ii) Admitted	Nil
(iii) Moved	Nil
(iv) Adopted	Nil
(v) Negatived	Nil
(vi) Withdrawn	Nil
(vii) Part-discussed	Nil
(viii) Lapsed	Nil
16. NUMBER, NAME AND DATE OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE CREATED, IF ANY	Nil
17. TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED	1,159
18. TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS	3,066
19. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED ON ANY SINGLE DAY, AND DATE ON WHICH ISSUED	75 (on 8.5.2003)

20. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS ON ANY SINGLE DAY AND DATE — 261 (on 27.2.2003)

21. TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED

(i) Starred — 700

(ii) Unstarred — 5261

(iii) Short-Notice Questions — Nil

22. DISCUSSIONS ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRIES — 4

1. Ministry of Home Affairs
2. Ministry of Agriculture
3. Ministry of Human Resource Development
4. Ministry of Communications and Information Technology

23. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Sl No.	Name of the Committee	No. of meetings held during the period 1 January–31 March 2003	No. of Reports presented
1	2	3	4
i)	Business Advisory Committee	3	Nil
ii)	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	2	Nil
iii)	Committee on Petitions	2	Nil
iv)	Committee on Privileges	0	Nil
v)	Committee on Rules	1	Nil
vi)	Committee on Government Assurances	1	Nil
vii)	Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	3	1
viii)	General Purposes Committee	1	Nil
ix)	House Committee	Nil	Nil
DEPARTMENT-RELATED STANDING COMMITTEES:			
x)	Commerce	8	Nil
xi)	Home Affairs	9	Nil
xii)	Human Resource Development	10	Nil
xiii)	Industry	9	35
xiv)	Science and Technology, Environment and Forests	5	Nil
xv)	Transport, Tourism and Culture	8	4
OTHER COMMITTEES			
xvi)	Ethics Committee	1	Nil
xvii)	Committee on Provision of Computers to Members of Rajya Sabha	Nil	Nil
xviii)	Committee on Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme	2	Nil
xix)	Joint Parliamentary Committee on the functioning of Wakf Boards	2	Nil

23. NUMBER OF MEMBERS GRANTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE — 5

25. PETITIONS PRESENTED — Nil

26. NAME OF NEW MEMBERS SWORN IN, WITH DATES

S.No.	Name of Members sworn in	Party affiliation	Date on which sworn in
1	2	3	4
1.	Shri K. Chandran Pillai	CPI (M)	22.4.2003
2.	Shri Thennala G. Balakrishna Pillai	INC	23.4.2003
3.	Shri Vayalar Ravi	INC	23.4.2003

27. OBITUARY REFERENCES

S.No.	Name	Sitting member/ Ex-member
1.	Shri Devendra Prasad Singh	Ex-member
2.	Smt. Annapurna Devi Thimmareddy	-do-
3.	Shri Harbans Rai Bachchan	-do-
4.	Shri Kamal Nath Jha	-do-
5.	Shri Krishna Chandra Panda	-do-
6.	Shri Sudhakar Pandey	-do-
7.	Shri Gundappa Korwar	-do-

APPENDIX III

STATEMENT SHOWING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES DURING THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2003

Legislature	Duration	Sittings	Govt. Bills	Private Bills	Starred Questions	Unstarred Questions	Short Notice Questions
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
STATES							
Andhra Pradesh L.A.	17.2.2003 to 31.3.2003	31	9(13)	—	1,249(480)	68(a)	556(421)
Arunachal Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam L.A.	26.2.2003 to 8.4.2003	23	23(23)	1	957(419)	331(723)(a)	77(52)
Bihar L.A.	7.3.2003 to 28.3.2003	9	2(2)	—	875	385	68
Bihar L.C.	7.3.2003 to 28.3.2003	8	(1)	—	710(690)	3(3)	167(158)
Chhattisgarh L.A.	17.2.2003 to 28.3.2003	22	15(15)	—	1,066(830)	702(648)	—
Delhi L.A.	17.3.2003 to 7.4.2003	14	7(7)	—	(260)	(486)	—
Goa L.A.	7.2.2003 to 14.2.2003 24.3.2003 to 30.4.2003	30	21(19)	—	1,404(859)	314(293)	—
Gujarat L.A.	25.2.2003 to 28.3.2003	30	26(26)	16	3,422(2,051)	(88)(a)	36(7)
Haryana L.A.	5.3.2003 to 14.3.2003	9	15(15)	—	304(237)	36(28)	—
Himachal Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.	24.2.2003 to 25.3.2003	—	5(4)	2	562(549)	362(350)	1(1)
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.A.	27.2.2003 to 31.3.2003	21	17(19)	—	(311)	(2,254)	—
Karnataka L.C.	27.2.2003 to 31.3.2003	21	3(4)	—	1,670	315(1,226)	—

Kerala L.A.	24.1.2003 to 18.3.2003	20	8(7)	—	(802)	(9,912)	1
Madhya Pradesh L.A.	10.2.2003 to 28.3.2003	28	22(22)	—	4,086(2,053)	2,312(1,813)	—
Maharashtra L.A.	22.1.2003 to 10.4.2003 10.3.2003 to 10.4.2003	22	17(14)	16	6,502(613)	7(1)	29(2)
Maharashtra L.C.	22.1.2003 to 10.4.2003 10.3.2003 to 10.4.2003	22	1(16)	3	3,300(833)	18(650)(a)	2(1)
Manipur L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	-
Orissa L.A.	26.2.2003 to 5.4.2003	25	9(6)	—	3,206(2,155)	2,007(2,796)(b)	18(2)
Punjab L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rajasthan L.A.	24.2.2003 to 1.4.2003	22	14(13)	—	1,532(1,435)	1,631(1,533)	2
Sikkim L.A.	24.2.2003 to 1.3.2003	6	4(4)	—	5	—	—
Tamil Nadu L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tripura L.A.	20.3.2003 to 28.3.2003	7	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.A.	28.2.2003 to 5.3.2003	4	13(6)	—	840(31)	190(567)(a)	225(125)
Uttar Pradesh L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttaranchal L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Bengal L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORIES							
Pondicherry L.A.	27.3.2003 to 30.4.2003	3	—	—	—	—	—

* Information received from the State/Union territory Legislatures contained NIL report

**Information not received from the State/Union territory Legislatures

Notes:

a) Starred Questions admitted as unstarred

b) Including the starred questions converted into unstarred questions

APPENDIX III (Contd.)

COMMITTEES AT WORK/NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD AND NUMBER OF REPORTS PRESENTED DURING THE PERIOD 1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2001

	Business Advisory Committee	Committee on Govt. Assurances	Committee on Petitions	Committee on Private Members Bills and Resolutions	Committe of Privileges	Committee on Public Undertakings	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	Committee on the Welfare of SCs and STs	Estimates Committee	General Purposes Committee	House/Accommodation Committee	Library Committee	Public Accounts Committee	Rules Committee	Joint Select Committee	Other Committees
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
STATES																
Andhra Pradesh L.A.	3	4	1	—	10	12	6	4	10	—	1	7	7	—	—	7(a)
Arunachal Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Assam L.A.	4	3(1)	2	—	—	2	1	4(1)	1	—	1	—	7(5)	—	—	15(33)(b)
Bihar L.A.	—	18(2)	—	—	—	12	8	8	40(3)	—	8	8	69	—	—	56(c)
Bihar L.C.	1(1)	57	14	10(1)	4	—	10	23	—	13	10	10	—	—	—	50(8)(d)
Chhattisgarh L.A.	4(3)	3(2)	1(1)	4(4)	5(5)	2	2(1)	1	2	—	1	—	4	—	—	5(7)(e)
Delhi L.A.	1(1)	3(1)	1	1(1)	1	2(2)	—	4(1)	—	1(1)	—	—	1(1)	—	—	2(f)
Goa L.A.	2(2)	5	—	—	—	4	—	—	3	—	—	—	1	—	6	4(1)(g)
Gujarat L.A.	3(2)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1(4)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haryana L.A.	2(2)	15(1)	—	—	8	21(1)	13(1)	11(1)	13(2)	—	5	13	18(2)	1(1)	—	—
Himachal Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.A.	2	19	8	—	4	15(2)	4	5	12	—	4	8	7(1)	—	—	18(h)
Karnataka L.C.	2	8(2)	8(1)	2(1)	8	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—
Kerala L.A.	4(2)	1	7(2)	8(3)	1	11(7)	6	7(1)	9(2)	—	9	6	7(19)	1(1)	—	25(i)
Madhya Pradesh L.A.	3(3)	3(2)	—	3(3)	3	2(15)	3(1)	4(5)	4(1)	—	—	1	9(54)	2(1)	—	8(6)(j)
Maharashtra L.A.	6(5)	8(1)	2(1)	8(8)	4(1)	6	6(1)	17(2)	12	—	1	1	4	2	—	20(1)(k)
Maharashtra L.C.	6(4)	6	3(1)	3(3)	—	6	6(1)	17(2)	12	—	1	1	4	2	—	20(1)(l)
Manipur L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orissa L.A.	2	5	—	—	2	11(3)	—	5(1)	8(1)	—	—	7	6(14)	—	—	26(4)(m)
Punjab L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Rajasthan L.A.	3(3)	11	14(2)	—	13	17(10)	13(1)	31(1)	35(3)	—	15	19	19(51)	8	—	46(2)(n)
Sikkim L.A.	—	(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	1(2)	—	—	—	2(5)	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tripura L.A.	3(2)	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.A.	5(4)	16	—	—	—	4	—	8	17	—	—	—	10	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttaranchal L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Bengal L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORY																
Pondicherry L.A.	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	23	—	—	—	22	—	—	—

* Information received from State/Union territory Legislatures contained NIL report

** Information not received from the State/Union territory Legislatures

(a) Committee on Welfare of Minorities-2; Committee on Ethics-2; Committee on Welfare of Backward Classes-2; and Sub-Committee on Rules-1

(b) Committee on the Welfare of OBC & MOBC-1(1); Employment Review Committee-2; DRSC on Education-2(3); DRSC (Works)-3(9); and DRSC on Development-7(20)

(c) Women and Child Welfare Committee-16; Nivedan Committee-10; Committee on Internal Resources-15; and Question and Calling Attention Committee-15

(d) Question and Calling Attention Committee-15(2); Human Rights Committee-10(3); Nivedan Committee-15(3); and Implementation Committee-10

(e) Question and Reference Committee-1(15); Women and Children Welfare Committee-1(1); and Patal per Rakhe Gaye Patroin ka Parikshan Sambandhi Samiti-3(1)

(f) Select Committee on the Women Reservation Bill, 2001-1; and House Committee to consider matters related to allotment of land under the 20 Point Programme-1

(g) Committee on Delegated Legislation-4(1)

(h) Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-7; Women and Children Welfare Committee-4; and Committee on Welfare of Backward Classes and Minorities-7

(i) Committee on the Welfare of Women, Children and P.H.-8; Committee on Environment-5; Committee on the Welfare of Backward Class Communities-7; and Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-5

(j) Committee on Welfare of Women and Children-3(2); Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-2(2); and Committee on Question and Reference-3(2)

(k) & (l) Committee on Welfare of Vimukta Jatis and Nomadic Tribes-3; Committee on Employment Guarantee Scheme-9; Catering Committee-2(1); Women Rights and Welfare Committee-5(1); Adhoc Committee on Scheduled Tribes Women's Welfare –1

(m) Subject Committee on Agriculture-1(1); Subject Committee on Water Resources-1(1); Subject Committee on Rural Development-1(1); Subject Committee on Panchayati Raj-1(1); Members' Amenities Committee-1; House Committee on Co-operatives-4; House Committee on Operation of Forest-2; House Committee on Women and Child Welfare-3; House Committee on Beverage Corporation of Orissa Limited-3; House Committee on English Medium Schools-2; House Committee on Operation of Saw Mills-4; and House Committee on Orissa Engineering College-3

(n) Women and Child Welfare Committee-16(1); Question and Reference Committee-14(1); and Committee on Welfare of Backward Class-16

APPENDIX IV

LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT AND ASSENTED TO BY THE PRESIDENT DURING THE PERIOD

1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2003

Sl. No.	Title of the Bill	Date of Assent
1	2	3
1.	The Freedom of Information Bill, 2002	6.1.2003
2.	The Representation of the People (Second Amendment) Bill, 2002	6.1.2003
3.	The High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2002	7.1.2003
4.	The Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment) Bill, 2002	7.1.2003
5.	The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2002	7.1.2003
6.	The Scheduled Castes Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2002	7.1.2003
7.	The Companies (Second Amendment) Bill, 2002	13.1.2003
8.	The Competition Bill, 2002	13.1.2003
9.	The Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Bill, 2002	14.1.2003
10.	The Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Amendment Bill, 2002	17.1.2003
11.	The Prevention of Money-Laundering Bill, 2002	17.1.2003
12.	The Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2002	17.1.2003
13.	The Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Bill, 2002	30.1.2003
14.	The Biological Diversity Bill, 2002	5.2.2003
15.	The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess (Amendment) Bill, 2003	13.3.2003
16.	The Special Protection Group (Amendment) Bill, 2003	13.3.2003
17.	The Appropriation (Railways) Vote on Account Bill, 2003	13.3.2003
18.	The Appropriation (Railways) Bill, 2003	13.3.2003
19.	The Appropriation (Railways) No. 2, Bill, 2003	13.3.2003
20	The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2003	22.3.2003
21.	The Customs Traffic (Amendment) Bill, 2003	27.3.2003
22.	The Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2003	27.3.2003
23.	The Appropriation Bill, 2003	27.3.2003
24.	The Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2003	27.3.2003

APPENDIX V

LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND THE UNION TERRITORIES DURING THE PERIOD

1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2003

ANDHRA PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Andhra Pradesh Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 2003
2. The Andhra Pradesh Advocates Welfare Fund and the Andhra Pradesh Advocates Clerks Welfare Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2003
3. The Andhra Pradesh Regularization of Un-authorised Constructions in Municipal Corporations, Municipalities and Urban Development Authorities Bill, 2003
4. The Andhra Pradesh Value Added Sales Tax Bill, 2003
5. The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) (Andhra Pradesh Amendment) Bill, 2003
6. The Andhra Pradesh Tax on Entry of Goods into Local Areas (Amendment) Bill, 2003
7. The Andhra Pradesh Tax on Entry of Motor Vehicles into Local Areas (Amendment) Bill, 2003
8. The Andhra Pradesh Appropriation Bill, 2003
9. The Andhra Pradesh Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2003
10. The Andhra Pradesh Tax on Professions, Trades, Callings and Employments (Amendment) Bill, 2003
11. The Andhra Pradesh Farmers Management of Irrigation Systems (Amendment) Bill, 2003
12. The Andhra Pradesh State Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Bill, 2001
13. The Code of Criminal Procedure (Andhra Pradesh Amendment) Bill, 2000

ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Assam State Commission for Minorities Bill, 2003
2. The Assam Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 2003
3. The Assam Appropriation (No.I) Bill, 2003
4. The Guwahati Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2003
5. The Assam General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2003
6. The Assam Appropriation (No.II) Bill, 2003
7. The Assam Appropriation (No.III) Bill, 2003
8. The Assam Appropriation (No.IV) Bill, 2003
9. The Assam Appropriation (No.V) Bill, 2003
10. The Assam Appropriation (No.VI) Bill, 2003
11. The Assam Appropriation (No.VII) Bill, 2003

12. The Assam Value Added Tax Bill, 2003
13. The Assam Electricity Bill, 2003
14. The Bodoland Autonomous Council (Repeal) Bill, 2003
15. The Assam Entry Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2003
16. The Assam Agriculture Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2003
17. The Assam Amusements and Betting Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2003
18. The Assam Professions, Trades, Callings, Employments (Amendment) Bill, 2003
19. The Assam Legislative Assembly Member's Salaries, Allowances and Pensions (Amendment) Bill, 2003
20. The Assam Ministers, Ministers of State and Deputy Ministers Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 2003
21. The Assam Speaker's Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 2003
22. The Assam Deputy Speaker's Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 2003
23. The Salaries and Allowances of the Leader of the Opposition in Assam Legislative Assembly (Amendment) Bill, 2003

BIHAR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Bihar Viniyog (Sankhya-2) Vidheyak, 2003
2. The Bihar Appropriation Bill (No.2) Bill, 2003
3. The Bihar Viniyog (Lekhanudan) Vidheyak, 2003
4. The Bihar Appropriation Bill (Vote on Account) Bill, 2003

CHHATTISGARH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Chhattisgarh Vanijya Kar (Sanshodhak) Vidheyak, 2003
2. The Chhattisgarh Viniyog (Kramank-1) Vidheyak, 2003
3. The Chhattisgarh Bhu-Rajashwa Sanhita (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2003
4. The Chhattisgarh Viniyog (Kramank-2) Vidheyak, 2003
5. The Chhattisgarh Rajya Vitta Aayog (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2003
6. The Chhattisgarh Nagariy Kshetryor ke Bhumiheen Vyakti Pattadhuti Adhikaron ka Pradaye Kiya Jana (Sansodhan) Vidheyak, 2003
7. The Chhattisgarh Nagarpalika (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2003
8. The Chhattisgarh Nagarpalika Nigam (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2003
9. The Chhattisgarh Anadhikrit Vikas ka Niyamitikaran (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2003
10. The Chhattisgarh Panchayat Raj Adhiniyam (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2003
11. The Chhattisgarh Vishesh Police Sthapana (Nirsan) Vidheyak, 2003
12. The Chhattisgarh Sthaniya Nidhi Sampariksha (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2003
13. The Chhattisgarh Rajmarg Vidheyak, 2003
14. The Hidayatulla Rashtriya Vidhi Vishwavidyalaya Chhattisgarh Vidheyak, 2003
15. The Chhattisgarh Mullya Sanvardith Vikray Kar Vidheyak, 2003

DELHI LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Salary and Allowances of the Chief Whip in the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi Bill, 2003

2. The Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2003
3. The Delhi Prisons (Amendment) Bill, 2003
4. The Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2003
5. The Industrial Disputes (Delhi Amendment) Bill, 2003
6. The Minister of the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi (Salaries and Allowances) (Amendment) Bill, 2003
7. The Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2003

GOA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Goa Preservation of Trees (Third Amendment) Bill, 2003*
2. The Goa State Guarantees (Third Amendment) Bill, 2003
3. The Goa Buildings (Lease, Rent and Eviction) Control Bill, 2003*
4. The Goa Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2003
5. The Goa Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2003
6. The Goa Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2003*
7. The Goa Motor Vehicles Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2003*
8. The Goa Tax on Entry of Goods (Amendment) Bill, 2003
9. The Goa Sales Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 2003
10. The Goa Entertainment Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2003
11. The Goa Animal Preservation (Amendment) Bill, 2003*
12. The Goa Children's Bill, 2003*
13. The Goa University (Amendment) Bill, 2003*

GUJARAT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Gujarat New Capital (Periphery) Control (Repeal) Bill, 2003
2. The North Gujarat University (Amendment) Bill, 2003
3. The Bombay Primary Education (Gujarat Amendment) Bill, 2003
4. The Bombay Prevention of Gambling (Gujarat Amendment) Bill, 2003
5. The Dhirubhai Ambani Institute of Information and Communication Technology Bill, 2003
6. The Kutchh University Bill, 2003
7. The Gujarat Fisheries Bill, 2003
8. The Water Supply and Sewerage Board (Amendment) Bill, 2003
9. The Gujarat National Law University Bill, 2003
10. The Nirma University of Science and Technology Bill, 2003
11. The Gujarat Freedom of Religion Bill, 2003
12. The Indian Electricity (Gujarat Ahmedabad) Bill, 2003
13. The Gujarat Electricity Industry (Re-Organisation) Bill, 2003
14. The Gujarat Control of Organized Crime Bill, 2003

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* Bills awaiting Assent

15. The Gujarat Value Added Tax Bill, 2003
16. The Bombay Motor Vehicles (Taxation of Passengers) (Gujarat Ahmedabad) Bill, 2003
17. The Gujarat Regularization of Unauthorized Development (Amendment) Bill, 2003
18. The Gujarat (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2003
19. The Bombay Land Revenue (Gujarat Amendment) Bill, 2003
20. The Bombay Stamp (Gujarat Amendment) Bill, 2003
21. The Bombay Motor Vehicles Tax (Gujarat Amendment) Bill, 2003
22. The Gujarat Appropriation Bill, 2003
23. The Bombay Court-Fees (Gujarat Amendment) Bill, 2003
24. The Gujarat Advocates Welfare Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2003
25. The Gujarat State Disaster Management Bill, 2003
26. The Bombay Prohibition (Gujarat Amendment) Bill, 2003

HARYANA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Chaudhary Devi Lal University Sirsa Bill, 2003
2. The Kurukshetra University (Amendment) Bill, 2003
3. The Maharshi Dayanand University (Amendment) Bill, 2003
4. The Haryana Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 2003*
5. The Punjab Village Common Lands (Regulation) Haryana Amendment Bill, 2003
6. The Haryana Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2003*
7. The Haryana Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2003*
8. The Guru Jambheshwar University, Hisar (Amendment) Bill, 2003
9. The Punjab Excise (Haryana Amendment) Bill, 2003
10. The Revenue Recovery (Haryana Amendment) Bill, 2003
11. The Haryana Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2003
12. The Haryana Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2003
13. The Haryana General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2003
14. The Haryana Value Added Tax Bill, 2003
15. The Haryana Development and Regulation of Urban Areas (Amendment) Bill, 2003

KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Karnataka State Civil Services (Amendment) Bill, 2002*
2. The Karnataka Repealing and Amending Bill, 2002*
3. The Karnataka Sheep and Sheep Products Development (Repeal) Bill, 2002
4. The Karnataka Municipal Corporation (Second Amendment) Bill, 2002
5. The Karnataka Educational Institutions (Prohibition of Capitation Fees) (Amendment) Bill, 2002*
6. The Karnataka State Open University (Amendment) Bill, 2002*

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* Bills awaiting Assent

7. The Hampi World Heritage Area Management Authority Bill, 2002
8. The Secondary Education Examination Board (Amendment) Bill, 2002
9. The Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement (Amendment) Bill, 2003
10. The Karnataka Home Guards (Amendment) Bill, 2003*
11. The Karnataka Prohibition of Beggary (Amendment) Bill, 2002*
12. The Karnataka Inland Fisheries (Conservation Development & Regulation) Bill, 1996*
13. The Karnataka Value Added Tax Bill, 2003*
14. The Karnataka Appropriation Bill, 2003
15. The Karnataka Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2003
16. The Karnataka Motor Vehicles Taxation and Certain Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2003
17. The Karnataka Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 2003*
18. The Karnataka Stamp and Certain Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2003
19. The Karnataka Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2003
20. The Karnataka Court Fees and Suits Valuation (Amendment) Bill, 2003
21. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2002*
22. The Land Revenue (Amendment) Tax Bill, 2002*
23. The Karnataka Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 2002*
24. The Karnataka Legislature Salaries, Pensions and Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 2002*
25. The Karnataka Land Reforms (Amendment) Bill, 2002*
26. The Karnataka Municipalities (Third Amendment) Bill, 2003*
27. The Karnataka Command Areas Development (Amendment) Bill, 2003*
28. The Karnataka Village Office Abolition (Amendment) Bill, 2003*
29. The Karnataka Tax on Entry of Goods (Amendment) Bill, 2000

KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1. The Karnataka Municipalities (Third Amendment) Bill, 2002
2. The Karnataka Land Reforms (Amendment) Bill, 2002
3. The Karnataka Village Offices Abolition (Amendment) Bill, 2003
4. The Karnataka Command Areas Development (Amendment) Bill, 2003
5. The Karnataka State Civil Services (Amendment) Bill, 2002
6. The Karnataka Education Institutions (Prohibition of Capitation Fees) (Amendment) Bill, 2002
7. The Karnataka State Open University (Amendment) Bill, 2002
8. The Karnataka Prohibition of Beggary (Amendment) Bill, 2002*
9. The Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements (Amendment) Bill, 2002
10. The Karnataka Home Guards (Amendment) Bill, 2003*

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* Bills awaiting Assent

11. The Karnataka Value Added Tax Bill, 2003*
12. The Karnataka Inland Fisheries (Conservation Development & Regulation) Bill, 1996*
13. The Karnataka Appropriation Bill, 2003
14. The Karnataka Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2003
15. The Karnataka Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2003
16. The Karnataka Motor Vehicles Taxation and Certain Other Law (Amendment) Bill, 2003
17. The Karnataka Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 2003*
18. The Karnataka Stamp and Certain Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2003
19. The Karnataka Court Fees and Suits Valuation (Amendment) Bill, 2003
20. The Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2002*
21. The Karnataka Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 2002*
22. The Karnataka Land Revenue (Amendment) Bill, 2002*
23. The Karnataka Legislature Salaries, Pensions and Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 2002*

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Kerala Court Fees and Suits Valuation (Amendment) Bill, 2002
2. The Abkari Amendment Bill, 2003
3. The Kerala Value Added Sales Tax Bill, 2002
4. The Kerala General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2002
5. The Sree Sankarachaya University of Sanskrit (Amendment) Bill, 2003
6. The Kerala Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2003
7. The Kerala Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2003

MADHYA PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Madhya Pradesh Cement Upmishran Nivaran (Nirsan) Vidheyak, 2003
2. The Madhya Pradesh Manoranjan Shulk Tatha Vighyapan Kar Sanshodhan Vidheyak, 2003
3. The Madhya Pradesh Vrtti Kar Sanshodhan Vidheyak, 2003
4. The Madhya Pradesh Value Added Tax Sanshodhan Vidheyak, 2003
5. The Madhya Pradesh Madhyastham Adhikaran Sanshodhan Vidheyak, 2003
6. The Madhya Pradesh Bhu Rajaswa Sanhita Sanshodhan Vidheyak, 2003
7. The Madhya Pradesh Sinchai Prabandhan Main Krishakon Ki Bhagidari Sanshodhan Vidheyak, 2003
8. The Madhya Pradesh Lok Aayukta Evam Uplok Aayukta Sanshodhan Vidheyak, 2003
9. The Madhya Pradesh Krishi Upaj Mandi Sanshodhan Vidheyak, 2003
10. The Madhya Pradesh Sarvajanik Upkramon Ke Karmachariyon Ke Lok Seva Mein Samviliyan Pratishedha Sanshodhan Vidheyak, 2003

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* Bills awaiting Assent

11. The Madhya Pradesh Kashtha Chiran Viniyaman Sanshodhan Vidheyak, 2003
12. The Madhya Pradesh Upkar Sanshodhan Vidheyak, 2003
13. The Bharatiya Stamp (Madhya Pradesh-Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2003
14. The Madhya Pradesh Vishesha Police Sthapana Sanshodhan Vidheyak, 2003
15. The Madhya Pradesh Dhumrapan Nishedha Vidheyak, 2003
16. The Rajiv Gandhi Praudhaugiki Vishwa Vidyalaya Sanshodhan Vidheyak, 2003
17. The Madhya Pradesh Viniyog Vidheyak (Kramank 1), 2003
18. The Madhya Pradesh Viniyog Vidheyak (Kramank 2), 2003
19. The Madhya Pradesh Bhumi Sudhar Yojana (Nirsan) Vidheyak, 2003
20. The Madhya Pradesh Ganga Jal Nidhi Nyas (Nirsan) Vidheyak, 2003
21. The Indore Special Economic Zone (Special Provision) Vidheyak, 2003
22. The Madhya Pradesh Niji Kshetra Vishwavidyalaya Vidheyak, 2003

MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Maharashtra Agriculture Produce Marketing (Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 2001
2. The Maharashtra Agriculture Produce Marketing (Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 2002
3. The Maharashtra Right to Information Bill, 2002
4. The Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (Amendment) Bill, 2002
5. The Maharashtra Value Added Tax Bill, 2002
6. The Bombay Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 2003
7. The Maharashtra (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2003
8. The Maharashtra Tax Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2003
9. The Indian Electricity (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill, 2003
10. The Maharashtra Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2003
11. The Maharashtra Medical and Dental Colleges Admissions (Regulation and Abolition of All India Quota) Bill, 2003
12. The Maharashtra Appropriation Bill, 2003
13. The Bombay Stamp Duty (Third Amendment) Bill, 2003
14. The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2003

MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1. The Maharashtra Right to Information Bill, 2002
2. The Bombay Stamp Duty (Amendment) Bill, 2003
3. The Maharashtra Tax Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2003
4. The Maharashtra Agricultural Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2003
5. The Maharashtra Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 2001
6. The Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (Amendment) Bill, 2002
7. The Maharashtra Value Added Tax Bill, 2002
8. The Maharashtra Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 2002
9. The Maharashtra Medical and Dental Colleges Admissions (Regulation and Abolition of All India Quota) Bill, 2003

10. The Indian Electricity (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill, 2003

ORISSA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Shri Jagannath Temple (Amendment) Bill, 2003
2. The Western Orissa Development Council (Amendment) Bill, 2003
3. The Orissa Municipal Corporation Bill, 2003
4. The Orissa Hindu Religious Endowments (Amendment) Bill, 2003
5. The Panchayat Samiti (Amendment) Bill, 2003
6. The Orissa Appropriation Bill, 2003

RAJASTHAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Rajasthan Non-Government Educational Institutions (Amendment) Bill, 2001
2. The Rajasthan Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) (Amendment) Bill, 2001
3. The Rajasthan Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2003
4. The Rajasthan Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2003
5. The Rajasthan Finance Bill, 2003
6. The Rajasthan Value Added Tax Bill, 2003*
7. The Rajasthan Advocates Welfare Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2003
8. The Bikaner University Bill, 2003*
9. The Kota University Bill, 2003*
10. The Rajasthan Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2003
11. The Rajasthan Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 2003
12. The Rajasthan Co-operative Society (Amendment) Bill, 2003
13. The Rajasthan Universities Teachers and Officers (Selection for Appointment) (Amendment) Bill, 2003

SIKKIM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Sikkim Allotment of Housing Site and Construction of Building (Regulation and Control) Amendment Bill, 2003
2. The Sikkim Appropriation (Second and Final Supplementary Demands for Grants) Bill, 2003
3. The Appropriation (Demands for Grants) Bill, 2003
4. The Sikkim University Bill, 2003

UTTAR PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Uttar Pradesh Special Economic Zone Development Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2003
2. The Uttar Pradesh Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 2003
3. The Uttar Pradesh Sri Kashi Vishwanath Temple (Amendment) Bill, 2003
4. The Uttar Pradesh Tax on Entry of Goods (Amendment) Bill, 2003
5. The Uttar Pradesh Appropriation (Supplementary 2002-2003) Bill, 2003
6. The Uttar Pradesh Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2003

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* Bills awaiting Assent

APPENDIX VI

ORDINANCES PROMULGATED BY THE UNION AND STATE GOVERNMENTS DURING THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2003

Sl. No.	Title of Ordinance	Date of Promulgation	Date on which laid before the House	Date of Cessation	Remarks
			UNION GOVERNMENT		
1.	The Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003	20.1.2003	17.2.2003	31.3.2003	Replaced by Act of Parliament
			ANDHRA PRADESH		
1.	The Andhra Pradesh Regularisation of the Unauthorised Constructions in Municipal Corporations and Urban Development Authorities Ordinance, 2003	2.1.2003	—	—	—
2.	The Andhra Pradesh Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003	24.1.2003	—	—	—
			GUJARAT		
1	The Gujarat New Capital (Periphery) Control (Repeal) Ordinance, 2002	1.2.2003	25.2.2003	—	Replaced by Legislation

		HARYANA			
1.	The Punjab Excise (Haryana Amendment) Ordinance, 2003	17.2.2003	5.3.2003	5.3.2003	Replaced by Legislation
		KERALA			
1	The Kerala Stay of Eviction Proceedings (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003	29.3.2003	—	—	—
2.	The Local Self Government Institutions Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003	29.3.2003	—	—	—
		MAHARASHTRA			
1.	The Bombay Stamp (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003	3.2.2003	10.3.2003	20.4.2003	Replaced by Legislation
2.	The Maharashtra Agricultural Universities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003	3.3.2003	10.3.2003	20.4.2003	—
		ORISSA			
1.	The Orissa Municipal Corporation Ordinance, 2003	—	—	—	—
		RAJASTHAN			
1.	The Rajasthan Sales Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003	17.12.2002	24.2.2003	—	—
2.	The Rajasthan Universities Teachers and Officers (Selection for Appointment) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2002	28.12.2002	24.2.2003	—	—

UTTAR PRADESH

1.	The Uttar Pradesh Apartment (Promotion of Construction, Ownership and Maintenance) Ordinance, 2003	10.2.2003	28.2.2003	11.5.2003	—
2.	The Uttar Pradesh Tax on Entry of Goods (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003	10.2.2003	28.2.2003	—	Replaced by Legislation
3.	The Uttar Pradesh Electricity Reforms (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003	14.3.2003	—	—	—
4.	The Uttar Pradesh Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj Medical University (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003	22.3.2003	—	—	—
5.	The Code of Civil Procedure (Uttar Pradesh Amendment) Ordinance, 2003	22.3.2003	—	—	—

A. PARTY POSITION IN LOK SABHA (AS ON 18 AUGUST 2003)

States	Seats	BJP	INC	CPI (M)	TDP	SJP	SS	BSP	DMK	(Samata)	AIADMK	BJD	AITC	NCP	JD (U)	INLD	J&K NC	PMK	MDMK	RJD	CPI	RJD (D)	RSP	ABLTC
Andhra Pradesh	42	7	5	—	29	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam	14	2	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar	40	12	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	4	—	2	—	—
Chhattisgarh	11	8	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Goa	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gujarat	26	21	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haryana	10	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand	14	10	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Karnataka	28	7	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kerala	20	—	7	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	29	21	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra	48	13	9	—	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manipur	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orissa	21	9	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Punjab	13	1	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Rajasthan	25	16	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu	39	4	2	1	—	—	—	—	12	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	4	—	—	—	—	—
Tripura	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttaranchal	5	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh	80	25	8	—	—	27*	—	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
West Bengal	42	2	3	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	3	—
Nominated	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORIES																								
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chandigarh	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daman and Diu	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
The NCT of Delhi	7	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lakshadweep	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pondicherry	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	545	183	109	34	29	27*	15	14	12	12	11	10	8	8	6	5	5	5	4	4	3	3	3	2

* Includes three members (Kunwar Sarv Raj Singh and Sarvashri Ramakant Yadav and Bhai Chandra Yadav) expelled from Samajwadi Party and sitting seperately.

APPENDIX VII (CONTD.)

A. PARTY POSITION IN LOK SABHA (AS ON 27 JUNE 2003)

States	AIFB	JD (JP)	JD (S)	LJ SP	ML	SAD	AIM EIM	BBM	CPI (M-L)L	HVC	IFDP	JMM	KC	LD (S)	PWP	RLD	SJP (R)	SAD (M)	SDF	IND	TOTAL	VACANCIES
Andhra Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	42	—
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Assam	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	14	—
Bihar	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	40	—
Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—
Goa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Gujarat	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26	—
Haryana	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—
Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—
Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	—
Karnataka	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	—
Kerala	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	19	1
Madhya Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	29	—
Maharashtra	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	47	1
Manipur	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Orissa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	—
Punjab	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	13	—
Rajasthan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	—
Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	39	—
Tripura	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Uttaranchal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
Uttar Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	1	80	—
West Bengal	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	42	—
Nominated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
UNION TERRITORIES																						
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Daman and Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
The NCT of Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—
Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Total	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	543	2

Abbreviations used in respect of parties represented in the Lok Sabha:

BJP- Bharatiya Janata Party; INC- Indian National Congress; CPI(M) Community Party of India (Marxist); TDP-Telugu Desam Party; SJP-Samajwadi Party; SS- Shiv Sena; BSP- Bahujan Samaj Party; DMK-Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam; SP-Samata party; AIADMK-All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam; BJD-Biju Janata Dal; AITC-All India Trinamool Congress; NCP-Nationalist Congress Party; JD(U)-Janata Dal (United); INLD-Indian National Lok Dal; J&KNC-Jammu and Kashmir National Conference; PMK-Pattali Makkal Katchi; MDMK-Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam; RJD-Rashtriya Janata Dal; CPI-Communist Party of India; RJD(D)-Rashtriya Janata Dal (Democratic); RSP-Revolutionary Socialist Party; ABLTC-Akhil Bharatiya Loktantrik Congress; AIFB-All India Forward Bloc; JD(JP)-Janata Dal (JP); JD(S)-Janata Dal (Secular); LJSP-Lok Jan Shakti Party; ML-Muslim League Kerala State Committee; SAD-Shiromani Akali Dal; AIMEIM-All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen; BBM-Bharipa Bahujan Mahasangh; CPI(M-L)L-Communist Party of India (M-L)Liberation; HVC-Himachal Vikas Congress; IFDP-Indian Federal Democratic Party; JMM-Jharkhand Mukti Morcha; KC-Kerala Congress; LD(S)-Lok Dal(Secular); PWP-Peasants and Workers Party of India; RLD-Rashtriya Lok Dal; SJP(R)-Samajwadi Janata Party (Rashtriya); SAD(M)-Shiromani Akali Dal (S.S. Mann); SDF-Sikkim Democratic Front; IND-Independents

B. PARTY POSITION IN RAJYA SABHA (AS ON 9 JULY 2003)

Sl. No.	State/Union Territories	Seats	INC	BJP	TDP	CPI(M)	AIA-DMK	DMK	SP	RJD	Shiv Sena	BSP	*Others	IND	Total	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	STATES															
1.	Andhra Pradesh	18	4	—	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1(a)	—	18	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
3.	Assam	7	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2(b)	1	7	—
4.	Bihar	16	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	3(c)	1	16	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	5	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1
6.	Goa	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
7.	Gujarat	11	3	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—
8.	Haryana	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5(d)	—	5	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1(e)	—	3	—
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2(f)	—	4	—
11.	Jharkhand	6	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—
12.	Karnataka	12	7	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2(g)	1	12	—
13.	Kerala	9	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	4(h)	—	8	1
14.	Madhya Pradesh	11	7	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—
15.	Maharashtra	19	5	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	3(i)	3	19	—
16.	Manipur	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
17.	Meghalaya	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1(j)	—	1	—
18.	Mizoram	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1(k)	—	1	—
19.	Nagaland	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
20.	Orissa	10	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4(l)	1	10	—
21.	Punjab	7	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4(m)	—	7	—
22.	Rajasthan	10	8	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—
23.	Sikkim	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1(n)	—	1	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
24.	Tamil Nadu	18	2	—	—	—	9	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	—
25.	Tripura	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
26.	Uttaranchal	3	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
27.	Uttar Pradesh	31	2	9	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	5	1(o)	4	31	—
28.	West Bengal	16	1	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	4(p)	2	16	—
UNION TERRITORIES																
29.	The NCT of Delhi	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
30.	Pondicherry	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
31.	Nominated	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	11(q)	—	12	—
	TOTAL	245	64	45	13	12	9	8	11	8	5	5	50	13	243	2

Others
(Break-up of Parties/Groups)
(a) Asom Gana Parishad-1;
(b) Samata Party-2;
(c) Indian National Lok Dal-4; Haryana Vikas Party-1;
(d) Himachal Vikas Congress-1
(e) Jammu and Kashmir National Conference-1; and Peoples' Democratic Party-1
(f) Mizo National Front-1;
(g) Janata Dal-2;
(h) Muslim League-2; Kerala Congress-1; and Revolutionary Socialist Party-1;
(i) Nationalist Congress Party-2; and Republican Party of India-1;
(j) Nationalist Congress Party-1;
(k) Biju Janata Dal-4;
(l) Shiromani Akali Dal-4;
(m) Sikkim Democratic Front-1;
(n) Tamil Maanila Congress(M)-2;
(o) Akhil Bharatiya Loktantrik Congress-1;
(p) Revolutionary Socialist Party-2; Forward Bloc-1; and All India Trinamool Congress-1;
(q) Nominated-11

C. PARTY POSITION IN STATE LEGISLATURES

State/Union territories	Seats	Cong.(I)	Janata Dal	BJP	CPI(M)	CPI	Others Parties	Ind.	Total	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Andhra Pradesh L.A. (1.4.2003)	295	91	—	12	2	—	185(a)	5	295	—
Arunachal Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam L.A. (31.3.2003)	126	71	—	8	—	—	29(b)	18	126	—
Bihar L.A. (1.4.2003)	243	11	—	36	2	2	173(c)	17	242@	1
Bihar L.C. (1.4.2003)	96	7	—	10	1	2	29(d)	2	51@	44
Chhattisgarh (1.4.2003)	91	62	—	22	—	—	5(e)	2	91	—
Delhi L.A. (1.4.2003)	70	52	1	14	—	—	1(f)	2	70	—
Goa L.A. (1.4.2003)	40	16	—	17	—	—	6(g)	1	40	—
Gujarat L.A. (1.4.2003)	182	50	—	127	—	—	2(h)	2	181	1
Haryana L.A. (1.4.2003)	90	20	—	6	—	—	51(i)	11	89@	1
Himachal Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.A. (31.3.2003)	89	20	—	1	2	—	53(j)	13	89	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Jharkhand L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.A. (10.4.2003)	225	136	—	35	—	—	33(k)	19	223@	1
Karnataka L.C.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kerala L.A. (1.4.2003)	141	62	—	—	23	7	45(l)	3	140@	—
Madhya Pradesh L.A.* (1.4.2003)	231	—	1	83	—	—	139(m)	7	230@	—
Maharashtra L.A. (1.4.2003)	289	73	—	55	2	—	147(n)	12	288	1
Maharashtra L.C. (1.4.2003)	48	21	1	13	—	—	30(o)	13	78	—
Manipur L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orissa L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Punjab L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rajasthan L.A. (31.3.2003)	200	152	3	34	1	—	2(p)	8	200	—
Sikkim L.A. (1.4.2003)	32	—	—	—	—	—	32(q)	—	32	—
Tamil Nadu L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tripura L.A. (1.7.2001)	60	13	—	—	38	1	8(r)	—	60	—
Uttar Pradesh L.A. (1.4.2003)	404	16	—	87	2	—	282(s)	16	403	1
Uttar Pradesh L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

West Bengal L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORY										
Pondicherry L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

*Information received from the State/Union territory Legislatures contained NIL report

** Information not received from the State/Union territory Legislatures

@ Excluding Speaker/Chairman

(a) Telegu Desam Party-179; All India Majlis-Ittehad-Ul-Muslimeen-4; Telengana Rashtra Samithi-1; and Nominated-1

(b) Asom Gana Parishad-21; Nationalist Congress Party-3; Autonomous State Demand Committee (United)-2; Samata Party-1; Samajwadi Party-1; and All India Trinamool Congress-1

(c) Rashtriya Janata Dal-118; Samata Party-30; Janata Dal (U)-8; Lok Jan Shakti-6; CPI(ML)-5; Janata Dal (Jaya Prakash)-4; and Kosal Party-2

(d) RJD-24; Janata Dal(U)-2; and Samata Party-3

(e) Bahujan Samaj Party-2; Gondwana Gantantra Party-1; Nominated-1; and Unattached-1

(f) Unattaeeched-1

(g) United Goans Democratic Party-3; Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party-2; and Nationalist Congress Party-1

(h) Janata Dal (United)-2

(i) Indian National Lok Dal-46; Haryana Vikas Party-2; Bahujan Samaj Party-1; Nationalist Congress Party-1; and Republican Party of India-1

(j) National Conference-28; People's Democratic Party-16; National Panthers Party-4; Bahujan Samaj Party-1; Awami League-1; Democratic Movement-1; and Nominated-2

(k) Janata Dal (U)-19; Janata Dal (S)-4; AIADMK-1; Unattached members-8; and Nominated-1

(l) Muslim League-16; Kerala Congress (Mani)-9; Janathipathya Samrakshana Samithi-4; Janata Dal(S)-3; Kerala Congress-2; Kerala Congress (B)-2; Kerala Congress (Jacob)-2; Nationalist Congress Party-2; Revolutionary Socialist Party-2; Revolutionary Socialist Party (Bolshevik)-2; and Communist Marxist Party Kerala-1

(m) Bharatiya Rashtriya Congress-127; Bahujan Samaj Party-4; Samajwadi Party-4; Republican Party of India-1; Janata Party-1; Ajay Bharat Party-1; and Nominated-1

(n) Shiv Sena-69; Nationalist Congress Party-62; Peasants and Workers Party-5; Bharipa Bahujan Mahasangh (B)-3; Janata Dal (Secular)-2; Gondwana Gantantra Party-1; Native Peoples Party-1; Republican an Party of India-1; Samajwadi Janata Party-1; and Nominated-1

(o) Nationalist Congress Party-16; Shiv Sena-12; Peasants and Workers Party of India-1; and Peoples Republican Party-1

(p) Rashtriya Janata Dal-1; and Bahujan Samaj Party (Secular)-1

(q) Sikkim Democratic Front-28; Sikkim Sangram Parishad-1; and Unattached-3

(r) RSP-2; and Indigenous Nationalist Party of Tripura-6

(s) Samajwadi Party-142; Bahujan Samaj Party-108; Rashtriya Lok Dal-14; Rashtriya Kranti Party-4; Apna Dal-3; Uttar Pradesh Loktantrik Congress-2; Janata Dal (U)-1; Akhil Bharatiya Congress-1; Manjhi Manjwar Shoshit Samaj Dal-1; Samajwadi Janata Party (Rashtriya)-1; Janata Party-1; Samata Party-1; Akhil Bharatiya Hindu Mahasabha-1; National Loktantrik Party-1; and Nominated-1

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